

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) No, Sir. As per existing policy, allocations of foodgrains are made under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projection of the Registrar General of India as of March, 2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. Allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by States. Presently, these allocations range between 15 and 35 kg. per family per month in different States/UTs.

Considering surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government has made Special additional allocations of 122.80 lakh tonnes of foodgrains over and above normal TPDS allocations to States/UTs during the current calendar year. Allocation of foodgrains are also made to States for calamity relief based on requests received from them.

Government also makes allocation of foodgrains under different Welfare Schemes, which include Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Annapurna Yojana as per assessed requirement under these schemes.

**Foodgrains allocation to States on basis of their  
estimation of BPL families**

1912. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has urged Government to allocate foodgrains to all States for the Public Distribution System going by the number of below poverty line families estimated by the States under Central norms; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has suggested that Government of India may consider:—

- (i) increase in quantum of food supply to the population below poverty line, and
- (ii) distribute foodgrains to deserving population at very low or no cost.

In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's suggestion, the Government has made a special *ad hoc* allocation of a total of 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to all States/UTs in September, 2010 for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices for 6 months.