

BPL card holders in U.P.

†3441. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of BPL card holders in Uttar Pradesh and its percentage in the population of the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh Government has written several times to the Central Government to increase the number of such card holders; and

(c) if so, the decision taken regarding the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) Allocation of foodgrains to States & Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made by Government of India on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Accordingly, allocation of foodgrains are made to 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, all over India. As per these estimates, 40.85% of families in the State of Uttar Pradesh are in the BPL category, which amounts to 106.79 lakh BPL families including 40.945 lakh AAY families.

Requests have been received from some States/UTs including State Government of Uttar Pradesh for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS. As Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the request from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to. However, in addition to the allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, Government has been making additional allocation of foodgrains from time to time to States/UTs depending upon the availability of stocks and requests received from States/UTs.

FPS in rural and small towns

†3442. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.