

(d) Due to all the above, there existed the need for reducing the administrative expenditure of public agencies involved in grain handling and for plugging the leakages of BPL good grains from their supply chain.

AAY Allocation to Andhra Pradesh

3399. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh as on 30th September, 2005;

(b) the details of quantity of rice being allotted every month by the Central Government towards distribution for each beneficiary and the rate at which they are distributed;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle to bear the expenditure to the extent of transport and handling charges and fair-price dealers commission under the AAY scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 15,57,800.

(b) The monthly allocation of rice under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for Andhra Pradesh is 54,524 MT for distribution @ 35 kg. per Ration Card.

(c) to (e) In the conference of State Food Ministers held in October, 2004, there was a recommendation that the foodgrains distributed under AAY, through the fair price shops should be entitled to retail commission from Government of India. However, Government has not found the proposal feasible, because already a huge subsidy is being provided under the scheme, and it was felt that part of the subsidy burden should be borne by the State Governments also.