

- (a) whether representatives of the sugar industry met him and demanded a package for the revitalisation of the sector;
- (b) if so, the main points suggested by them;
- (c) whether Government have considered their suggestions and if so, how many of their proposals have been considered; and
- (d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The representatives of sugar industry met the Minister and made suggestions regarding, *inter alia*, expediting subsidy claims, softening of terms of financial assistance under Sugar Development Fund, taking up matters with other relevant Ministries etc. Government have taken appropriate decision on their suggestions.

Ration card for farmers and agriculture workers

101. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of alarming number of suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh and various parts of country due to poverty after the year 2002;
- (b) whether many farmers and agriculture workers are excluded from Public Distribution System (PDS) and denied ration cards with introduction of targeted PDS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the number of ration card holders for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise;
- (d) the measures taken if any, for long term food security of the farmers; and
- (e) whether Universal Public Distribution System will be introduced for enabling the deprived to access food?

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

(b) No, Sir. The instructions of Government of India do not bar issue of ration cards under the Targeted Public Distribution System to *bona fide* Indian citizens.

(c) Does not arise. The number of ration card holders for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(d) To ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the poorest of the poor from amongst the BPL families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December, 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and 3/- per kg. for rice. The scale of issue has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April, 2002. The Yojana which initially covered one crore poorest of the poor families has been expanded to cover 1.5 crore BPL families, in June, 2003. It is being further expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families particularly the ones which are at the risk of hunger. Foodgrains are also provided under various welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections of the society.

(e) At present, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Statement

The number of ration card holders for the last three years, State-wise, Category-wise and year-wise

State/UT	Number of Ration Cards						
	2001		2002		2003		
	APR	BPL*	APL	BPL*	APL	BPL	AAY
Andhra Pradesh	53.97	113.60	53.97	105.05	53.97	98.82	6.23
Arunachal Pradesh	2.73	0.95	2.73	0.99	2.65	0.84	0.15
Assam	25.72	18.84	34.45	18.94	34.45	16.01	2.81
Bihar	88.74	84.26	52.20	71.63	52.20	61.64	10.00
Chhattisgarh			24.81	20.99	25.94	14.86	4.31
Delhi	36.55	N.A.	34.04	3.34	34.00	4.06	0.31
Goa	3.04	0.13	3.00	0.23	2.96	0.24	0.06
Gujarat	72.83	33.75	71.64	35.64	65.53	32.78	11.36
Haryana	37.68	5.54	36.61	7.99	36.80	6.89	1.14
Himachal Pradesh	9.30	3.11	10.40	2.98	10.49	2.12	0.80
Jammu and Kashmir	10.12	3.36	10.94	7.36	10.94	6.23	1.13
Jharkhand			5.15	23.94	5.15	20.28	3.66

	2001		2002		2003		
	Apr	BPL*	APL	BPL*	APL	BPL	AAY
Karnataka	49.43	63.26	46.71	63.87	47.24	60.32	4.80
Kerala	43.05	20.40	43.61	20.29	43.16	17.44	2.72
Madhya Pradesh	134.18	43.65	82.28	56.71	82.27	45.73	6.31
Maharashtra	139.45	56.70	143.20	74.72	144.84	64.45	10.02
Manipur	1.13	0.67	1.89	1.30	1.89	1.03	0.25
Meghalaya	0.98	0.97	1.07	1.83	1.07	1.55	0.28
Mizoram	1.62	0.68	1.71	0.66	1.61	0.58	0.10
Nagaland	1.05	0.96	1.95	1.24	0.75	1.05	0.19
Orissa	39.85	41.23	30.61	48.41	30.61	43.35	5.05
Punjab	50.10	5.02	48.19	7.04	47.55	6.42	0.72
Rajasthan	81.36	22.87	96.47	22.80	98.65	19.07	3.73
Sikkim	0.66(APL+BPL)		0.89	0.37	0.89	0.30	0.07
Tamil Nadu**	95.50	65.51		168.30	161.14(APL+BPL)		7.16
Tripura	4.50	2.28	4.18	2.95	4.21	2.50	0.45
Uttar Pradesh	159.96	95.48	274.00	106.79	274.00	90.42	16.37
Uttaranchal			16.99	4.98	16.99	4.22	0.76
West Bengal***	112.07	46.88	112.44	46.92	112.81	41.46	5.84
Andaman & Nicobar	0.74	0.12	0.71	0.15	0.71	0.11	0.04
Chandigarh	2.12	0.00	2.16	0.13	2.18	0.05	0.02
D&N Haveli	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.13	0.03
Daman & Diu	0.28	0.02	0.27	0.04	0.25	0.03	0.01
Lakshadweep	0.13	N.A.	0.13	0.01	0.13	0.01	0.00
Pondicherry	1.72	0.95	1.77	0.96	1.81	0.87	0.10
TOTAL:	1260.73	731.35	1251.34	929.71	1410.01	665.86	106.98

Note: * Includes AAY ration cards

** Separte figures of APL/BPL cards in Tamil Nadu are not available as there is no categorisation of APL/BPL in the States.

*** The State Govt. has issued individual ration cards.

5 Individual ration cards have been taken as one family card to arrive at total number of ration cards in the State.

Distribution of quality foodgrains

102: SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: