

Distribution of BPL Ration Cards

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

(a) whether steps will be taken to measure poverty by looking directly at the current data on consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reason therefor;

(c) whether the below poverty line ration cards were distributed based on the quantities required to give 2400 calories;

(d) if so, the total below poverty line ration cards distributed as on date, State-wise; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to introduce Universal Public Distribution System instead of Targeted Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) At present, Planning Commission is using per capita consumption expenditure as the yard stick to assess a person living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and service anchored on a norm of per capita calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The rational poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per month in urban areas.

(c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 35 kg of food grains per family per month is being allocated. The Public Distribution System is supplemental in nature and does not envisage meeting the full requirements of foodgrains of any person or any class in full. However, the enhanced allocation of foodgrains fulfils around 50% of the cereal requirement every month for an average BPL household.

(d) State-wise distribution of ration cards under BPL is given in the Statement (See below).

(e) At present there is no proposal to introduce Universal Public Distribution System instead of TPDS.

Statement*State-wise distribution of Ration Cards under BPL*

SI. No.	State/UT	BPL Ration Cards Distributed (including cards under Antyodaya Anna Yojana) (in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	138.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.28
3.	Assam	18.92
4.	Bihar	71.64
5.	Chhattisgarh	19.17
6.	Delhi	4.34
7.	Goa	0.26
8.	Gujarat	44.14
9.	Haryana	8.08
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.92
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.36
12.	Jharkhand	23.95
13.	Karnataka	75.27
14.	Kerala	20.18
15.	Madhya Pradesh	52.05
16.	Maharashtra	73.60
17.	Manipur	1.28
18.	Meghalaya	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24
21.	Orissa	48.40
22.	Punjab	7.14
23.	Rajasthan	23.02
24.	Sikkim	0.43

1	2	3
25.	Tamil Nadu*	7.14
26.	Tripura	2.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98
29.	West Bengal**	47.30
30.	A&N Islands	0.15
31.	Chandigarh	0.07
32.	D & N Haveli	0.16
33.	Daman & Diu	0.05
34.	Lakshdweep	0.01
35.	Pondicherry	0.96
	TOTAL	815.84

Note * Separate figures of BPL cards in Tamil Nadu are not available as there is no categorization of APL/BPL in the State. The State Government has issued 7.14 lakh cards under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

** Government of West Bengal has issued individual ration cards. Five individual ration cards have been taken as one family card.

Increase on prices of essential commodities

532. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of essential commodities in the market as a result of rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check the rise which has hit the common man hard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDPIN):

(a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variations in the