

estimated carryover stock of 116 lakh tonnes as on 1st October 2003 and the estimated production of 138 lakh tonnes in the 2003-04 season.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

†1825. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present, foodgrains are being supplied to a total of 15 million families in the country under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana',

(b) if not, the facts in this regard,

(c) whether it is also a fact that the estimated number of BPL families in the country is 65.2 millions;

(d) if so, Government's assessment in this regard; and

(e) the criteria selected by Government for bringing families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH). (a) and (b) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for 10 million families from amongst the BPL category. The scheme has been expanded in the year 2003 by adding another 5 million BPL families with special focus on widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support and all Primitive Tribal Groups. With effect from 1st August, 2004, the AAY has been further expanded by another 5 million BPL families (thus increasing its coverage to 20 million) by including *inter alia*, all households at the risk of hunger. Allocation of food grains under the scheme is being released to the States/UTs by the Government on the basis of issue of distinctive AAY Ration Cards to the identified Antyodaya families. On the basis at present food grains are being supplied by the Government for 12.63 million families under the AAY.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the estimated number of BPL families is 65.20 million which is as per the poverty ratio of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 based on the population projection of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000.

(e) Guidelines for identification of additional 5 million AAY households have been issued on 3rd August, 2004 which stipulate the following criteria:—

- (i) Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen, such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, and persons earning their livelihood, on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitutes and other similar categories irrespective of rural or urban areas.
- (ii) Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.
- (iii) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.
- (iv) All primitive tribal households.

Leopards attack

1826. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leopards have been creating a havoc for people in many places of the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons attacked and killed by leopards in the country during the last one year;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect people from the menace of leopards; and

(d) the details of compensations paid to persons injured and families of those killed by leopards during the last one year?