

Inclusion of AAY cardholders in food security law

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only AAY cardholders have been included under the ambit of food security law, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) if not, the details of those who are included under the food security law; and
- (c) the details of existing number of APL, BPL and AAY cardholders in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural and 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains. Coverage under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT.

(c) There are no BPL and APL categories under NFSA. As stated above, coverage under the Act is under two categories. Households covered under AAY are entitled to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg for coarsegrains/wheat/rice respectively, under the Act. The priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at the above prices. The Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs and covers 2.36 crore AAY households and 70.57 crore persons belonging to priority households.

Achieving “Zero Hunger” target

231. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether eminent agriculturists have urged the Government to review the country's food policy, especially the distribution system, to achieve Zero Hunger across the country, if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and
- (b) whether people living in rural areas have to depend on the Public Distribution System due to fluctuation in the environmental conditions of the country such as severe heat, rains and drought?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.