

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3078
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
MONITORING ON SUBSIDIES Q U E S T I O N
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to slash or stop subsidy due to malfunctioning of its subsidy providing mechanism;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps takne by the Government to extend the subsidies to needy persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a)&(b): There is no proposal before the Government to do away with the subsidies on items of essential consumption and agriculture inputs. It is however, the constant endeavour of the Government to contain subsidies as far as possible within the budgetary provisions so as not to put strain on Government's attempt for prudent fiscal management.

(c) Government, in addition to supplying foodgrains to BPL population at 50% of economic cost under TPDS, is also implementing since March, 2001 the Antodaya Scheme, under which one crore poorest of the poor families in the country would be provided with foodgrains at subsidized rates of Rs.2/kg. for wheat and Rs.3/Kg. for rice, much below the BPL issue price of Rs.4.15 Kg. for wheat and Rs.5.65Kg. for rice.

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