

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1993
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
MEMORANDUM FROM KERALA REGARDING PDS
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from an all-party delegation headed by Chief Minister, Kerala regarding Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The memorandum from All Party Delegation headed by Chief Minister, Kerala had emphasized on Kerala being a consumer State, deficit in food production, and the need for maintaining the PDS network in the State. The main issues brought out in the memorandum related to increase in APL & BPL prices of rice, kerosene and cooking gas, removal of restrictions on movement of food grains, and acceptance of the State identified numbers of BPL families for enhanced allotment of rice by the Government of India.

(c)

(i) Increase in CIP for APL and BPL population has been made w.e.f. 1.4.2000 in order to link the MSP to CIP and to better targetise the subsidy towards the BPL population in the country. However, the BPL families stand benefited because of the increase in the monthly quota of wheat / rice from 10 kg to 20 kg per family per month. The prices have been further revised w.e.f. 25 July, 2000.

(ii) With regard to restrictions on movement of food grains, Government of India has been advising all States/UTs to remove restrictions on movement and stock limits of food grains.

(iii) The number and percentage of BPL has been fixed as 25.43% for Kerala by the Planning Commission based on the methodology of 'Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor'. This basis has been accepted by the Government of India for identifying the BPL population in order to implement the TPDS and the same basis is applied to all States/UTs without exception.