

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:373
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
RESPONSE TO AAY
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

- (a) whether the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (A.A.Y.) meant for providing food security to destitutes, disabled and unemployed persons in the country has evoked only a poor response;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any feasibility studies have been undertaken by the Government to reach out the said scheme to chronically hunger prone and inaccessible areas/villages in various States; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 373 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) which is being implemented for 2.5 crore poorest of the poor families is running successfully in all the States/UTs. Out of the estimated number of 2.5 crore families, more than 1.97 crore households have been identified and issued distinctive AAY ration cards by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The offtake of foodgrains under this Scheme is more than 90% of the allocation which shows the success of the Scheme.

(c) & (d): No such feasibility studies have been undertaken by the Government. However, the AAY is already being implemented in the entire country, which also covers chronically hunger prone and inaccessible areas/villages in various States. An evaluation study of Targetted Public Distribution System and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was got conducted through M/s ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. The final report of the study has been received on 7th September, 2005. The Study has made the following observations about the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

(i) 78% of AAY respondents had cards of distinct colour and in other cases the category of the card was stamped on the card itself.

(ii) Only 10.5% respondents in urban areas and 14.6% in rural areas were aware about the AAY selection process.

(iii) More than 90% of AAY respondents were dependent on ration shops for all commodities.

(iv) 52% of AAY respondents lifted wheat during past one year and 43% lifted both wheat and rice and 85% respondents lifting rice.

(v) 38% of AAY respondents lifted sugar during the past one year and 71% lifted kerosene. The respondents who reported not lifted foodgrains had cited non-availability of stocks at ration shops.

(vi) Grains earmarked for AAY category seems to have remained in tact and sold as per prescribed pricing etc.