

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:296

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

IDENTIFICATION OF BPL FAMILIES

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 sets a three month deadline to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued an order making it mandatory for the State Governments to identify people living below poverty line and also to ensure that they get food at fair price shops;
- (c) whether a number of States and Union Territories are still to identify the families to be covered under the Antyodaya Scheme;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay;
- (e) the directives given by the Union Government to these States to expedite the process; and
- (f) the extent to which the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 will help the poor families to get the food in fair price shops?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 296 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16-08-2004 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 makes it mandatory for the State Governments to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line and issue them distinctive Ration Cards to enable them to draw foodgrains at subsidized rates.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): All States/Union Territories are being regularly persuaded to complete the identification and issue of Antyodaya Cards to all beneficiaries.

(f): In order to maintain supplies, securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001. The Order mainly contains provisions with regard to the following matters:

- (i) Identification of families living below the poverty line;
- (ii) Ration Cards;
- (iii) Scale and Issue prices;
- (iv) Distribution of foodgrains;
- (v) Licensing; and
- (vi) Monitoring

The order provides for stringent punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for violation of any of the Clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the order.

All these provisions help to ensure that foodgrains allocated to Fair Price Shops are distributed to the beneficiaries in an efficient and transparent manner.