

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1607
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
CRITERION FOR DEFINING APL AND BPL CATEGORIES
Barman Shri Hiten

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

- (a) the criterion adopted by Government for defining the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories;
- (b) whether the Government has since decided not to provide subsidized ration and sugar to APL families; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The guidelines issued by the Government for identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families provide for inclusion of the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural laboureres, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters, tappers, weavers, black-smith, carpenters etc. in the rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like potters, rickshaw-pullers, cart-pullers, fruit and flower sellers on the pavement etc. in urban areas. The Gram panchayats and Gram-Sabhas should also be involved in the identification of eligible families. The families other than BPL are termed as Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

(b)&(c): No, Sir. The Above Poverty Lines (APL) families are provided foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at subsidized rates. However, the levy sugar is not made available to them under TPDS except in North-Eastern, Hill States and Island Territories with a view to better targeting the subsidy towards the poor.