

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:785
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
IMPLEMENTATION OF AAY
Bose Shri Subrata

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

- (a) whether Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is being implemented in all the States and UTs of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the features of the scheme;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries targeted and actually benefited under AAY since the inception of the scheme, State-wise/UTwise and year-wise;
- (d) the volume of foodgrains supplied and actually lifted during the last two years and the current year, State-wise and yearwise;
- (e) whether any review of AAY has been carried out to ascertain the quality of its delivery system effectiveness in decreasing hunger and incidents of acute malnutrition among children and women in poorest families etc.; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof?

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): Yes, Sir.
- (b): The details of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme with broad feature is annexed as per annexure-I.
- (c): A statement is attached at Annexure-II & III.
- (d): A statement is attached at Annexure-IV, V & VI.
- (e): No such specific study has been got done by the Government.

However, an Evaluation Study of TPDS and AAY was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. The report says that the AAY scheme seems to have been fairly successful with 85% households lifting rice.

The review of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. The Government is taking a number of steps to strengthen and improve the TPDS. The TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation up to the Principal Distribution Centers of FCI and the State Government are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast net work of 4.89 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. The Central and the State Governments work in close coordination in this behalf for the best implementation of TPDS.

PDS is supplemental in nature and cater to approximately 50% of the foodgrains requirement every month of an average BPL household. There are also several welfare schemes, adopting a life cycle approach, wherein foodgrains are distributed to the intended beneficiaries. The present scale of issue of 35 kg per month is approximately 50% of the total requirement of a average household of 5.5 persons. The allocation of foodgrains under TPDS is made on the basis of number of households estimated on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 based on the population projections of Registrar General Census as on 01.03.2000 or the number of ration cards issued by the State Governments, whichever is less. This procedure is uniformly followed throughout the country.

The nation wide Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme of Department of Women and Child Development is being implemented in the country since 1975 which provides six services with a view to improve nutrition and health status of children and women. Supplementary nutrition is provided to children in the age group of six months to six years, pregnant and lactating women besides immunization, health check up, referral services, non-formal pre-school education and nutrition and health education. Currently 7.8 lakh Anganwadi Centres are providing supplementary nutrition to 5.4 crore children and 1.1 crore pregnant and lactating women.

(f): Does not arise.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.785 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.03.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

The details of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme with broad features.

(i) A National Sample Survey Exercise pointed towards the fact that about 5% of the total population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day. This section of the population can be called as 'hungry'. In order to make Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more focused and targeted towards this category of population, the 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor families.

(ii) AAY contemplated identification of one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the number of BPL families covered under TPDS within the States and providing them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2/ per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/ per kg for rice. The States/UTs are required to bear the distribution cost, including margin to dealers and retailers as well as the transportation cost. Thus the entire food subsidy is being passed on to the consumers under the scheme.

(iii) The scale of issue that was initially 25 kg per family per month has been increased to 35 kg per family per month with effect from 1st April, 2002.

Identification of Antyodaya families and allocation of food grains :

(i) The identification of the Antyodaya families and issuing of distinctive Ration Cards to these families is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Detailed guidelines were issued to the States/UTs for identification of the Antyodaya families under the AAY and additional Antyodaya families under the expanded AAY. Allocation of food grains under the scheme is being made to the States/UTs on the basis of issue of distinctive AAY Ration Cards to the identified families.

Expansion of the Scheme

The scheme has been expanded thrice since then. The first expansion took place on 5th June, 2003, second expansion on 3rd August, 2004 and third expansion on 12th May, 2005 and every time 50 lakh more AAY families have been increased. At present 2.5 crore families are estimated to be covered under the scheme. With this increase more than 38% of the total estimated BPL families have been covered under AAY.

As on 22.2.2007, so far 234.105 lakh families have been covered by the States/UTs.

The focus on the following priority groups has been enshrined in the scheme.

1. Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.

2. Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.

3. All primitive tribal households.

4. Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitutes and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas.