

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
INCREASE IN BPL FAMILIES
Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

- (a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families eligible for subsidized foodgrains under the Public Distribution System, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for increasing the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) family card holders in various States including Gujarat;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(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.348 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.04.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore AAY families. The State-wise details of the 6.52 crore BPL families is given in Annex-I.

(b) & (c): Some State/Union Territory Governments, including Gujarat, have requested for increase in number of BPL families for TPDS allocations. The details are given in Annex-II.

(d): The allocation of foodgrains are made to the 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families @ 35 kg per family per month. These norms are uniformly applicable to all States/UTs. Hence, the requests from the State/UT Governments for increase in number of BPL families and allocation of foodgrains could not be accepted