

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4313

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

RATION CARDS FOR BPL FAMILIES

Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that most of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families have not been provided with BPL/Antyodaya Cards;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct survey of such families afresh and provide them the said cards;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (d) whether new technology i.e. computerisation of TPDS operating at various levels smart- card-based delivery of essential commodities to BPL families, etc. has been introduced in all the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, 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 (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at national and state levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

As provided under Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the State/UT governments have to identify BPL families as per the estimates accepted by Central Government. However, as reported by end of June, 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL ration cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards.

(b)&(c): For formulating guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalized by that Ministry. However, for issuing ration cards, the State governments have to formulate guidelines as stipulated under the PDS (Control) Order, 2001. They have also been directed to continuously review lists of BPL and AAY families to eliminate ineligible ration cards and units in them.

(d)to(f): In order to introduce smart card based delivery of essential commodities under TPDS, Govt has approved in December 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme in Chandigarh and Haryana. Based on results of this pilot scheme, decision will be taken for extending it in other States.

A Central pilot project on TPDS computerization is being taken up in four States. In addition as per available information, 9 State/UT governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have initiated computerization of TPDS operations from their own resources.