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Title: Need to protect the interests of all BPL families in the proposed Food Security Bill.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): People belonging to the poor families of agricultural labourers, landless daily wagers in the rural areas and the poor daily wage earners in the urban areas are greatly benefited by the Public Distribution System with the issue of family ration cards under two categories both BPL and APL. In Tamil Nadu alone, 68 per cent of the families are entirely dependent on essential commodities and food materials distributed through the Public Distribution System. Now, there is an apprehension in the minds of these people all over the country especially in Tamil Nadu that a new formula is being evolved to identify the BPL to bring down the number of these identified families to be reduced to less than 50 per cent than the available total number now. In this context, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that the poor families so far identified must not be ignored and left in the lurch to fend for themselves which will be against the avowed policies of the Government to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor. I, therefore, request the Union Government to include the BPL families who are in need of subsidized food grains in the Food security legislation in the offing.