

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 27.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**AVAILABILITY OF RICE AT RS. 2 PER KG. TO APL AND BPL CATEGORIES .**

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SHRI R.C. SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been demands from various quarters, including political parties, for providing rice at Rs. 2 per kg. irrespective of families belonging to APL or BPL;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that food security proposed by Government could be ensured only if rice is made available for Rs. 2 per kg. through PDS;
- (c) if so, the steps his Ministry would take in this regard;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that there is a difference between the list of BPL families at the Centre and States; and
- (e) 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

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(e): At present, allocations of foodgrains to States / Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This number of BPL families is based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. As against this, by October, 2009, BPL ration cards issued by States / UTs is 10.96 crore. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, which has inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

For distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible BPL, AAY and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders, subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP) communicated by Central Government are as follows:

AAY	BPL	APL	
Rice	3.00	5.65	8.30

(Rs./Kg.)

Wheat	2.00	4.15	6.10
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(Rs./Kg.)

Some of the States/Union Territories are, however, charging lower issue prices by further subsidizing the issue prices.

As announced in the address of Hon'ble President of India to joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act, under which every BPL family will be entitled to 25 kg rice/wheat per month at Rs.3 per kg.