

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3817
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024

APL RATION CARDS IN MAHARASHTRA

3817. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the current status of Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of APL cardholders and the benefits provided under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State;
- (c) whether the Government intends to expand the scope of APL cards to include more beneficiaries in Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, the details and timelines for such an expansion and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure transparency and accountability in the issuance and utilization of APL cards in Maharashtra?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013, (NFSA) provides for coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving free of cost foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Under the Act, there are two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) which constitute poor of the poor, to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households (PHH) to be identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. There is no Above Poverty Line (APL) category under the Act.

The Act provides for coverage of 76.32% of the rural and 45.34% of the urban population of the Maharashtra, which at Census 2011 comes to about 700.17 lakh persons. The state has identified beneficiaries upto maximum permissible limit.

(c) & (d): Section 9 of the Act provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published.

At present, no proposal for enhancement of coverage of beneficiaries under the Act is under consideration of the Government.

(e): The Act provides for constitution of Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and fair price shop levels for ensuring transparency and proper functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System and accountability of the functionaries in such system.

The Act also provides for periodic social audits on the functioning of fair price shops, Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes, through local authority, or any other authority or body, as may be authorized by the State Government. The Central Government may also conduct or cause to be conducted social audit through independent agencies having experience in conduct of such audits.
