

Antyodaya Anna Yojana Guidelines

- 1 AAY is a step in the direction of making TPDS aim at reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL population. A National Sample Survey Exercise points towards the fact that about 5 % of the total population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day. This section of the population can be called as “hungry”. In order to make TPDS more focused and targeted towards this category of population, the “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor families.
- 2 AAY contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the number of BPL families covered under TPDS within the States and providing them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/ per kg for rice. The States/UTs are required to bear the distribution cost, including margin to dealers and retailers as well as the transportation cost. Thus the entire food subsidy is being passed on to the consumers under the scheme.
- 3 The scale of issue that was initially 25 kg per family per month has been increased to 35 kg per family per month with effect from 1st April 2002.

First Expansion of AAY

- 4 The AAY Scheme has been expanded in 2003–2004 by adding another 50 lakh BPL households headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support. With this increase, 1.5 crore (i.e. 23% of BPL) families have been covered under the AAY.

Second Expansion of AAY

- 5 As announced in the Union Budget 2004–2005, the AAY has been further expanded by another 50 lakh BPL families by including, inter alia, all households at the risk of hunger. Orders to this effect have been issued on 3rd August 2004. In order to identify these households, the guidelines stipulate the following criteria:
 - Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans, craftsmen such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, and persons earning their livelihood, on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitutes and other similar categories irrespective of rural or urban areas.
 - Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.
 - Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.
 - All primitive tribal households.

With this increase, the number of AAY families has been increased to 2 crore (i.e. 30.66% of BPL) families.

Third Expansion of AAY

- 6 As announced in the Union Budget 2005-06, the AAY has further been expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL households thus increasing its coverage to 2.5 crore households.(i.e. 38% of BPL)
- 7 The status of identification of households under AAY (Normal, 1st expansion, 2nd expansion and 3rd expansion) is given in Annexure. The defaulting States/UTs are reminded regularly as a part of monitoring.

Identification of Antyodaya Families and Allocation of Foodgrains

- 8 The identification of the Antyodaya families and issuing of distinctive Ration Cards to these families is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Detailed guidelines were issued to the States/UTs for identification of the Antyodaya families under the AAY and additional Antyodaya families under the expanded AAY. Allocation of food grains under the scheme is being released to the States/UTs on the basis of issue of distinctive AAY Ration Cards to the identified Antyodaya families. The present monthly allocation of food grains under AAY is around 7.27 lakh tonnes per month.

Scale of Issue of Foodgrains under TPDS

- 9 Since 1997, the Scale of issue of the BPL families has been gradually increased from 10 kg. to 35 kg. per family per month. The scale of issue was increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month with effect from 1.4.2000. The allocation for APL families has been retained at the same level as at the time of introduction of TPDS (i.e. 10 kg. per family per month). The allocation of food grains for the BPL families has been further increased from 20 kg to 25 kg. per family per month with effect from July, 2001. Initially, the Antyodaya families were provided 25 kg. of food grains per family per month at the time of launching of the scheme. The scale of issue under APL, BPL and AAY has been revised to 35 kg per family per month with effect from 1.4.2002 with a view to enhancing the food security at the household level.