25th December,2000

Dear Shri

As you are aware, 36 crore people in the country are living below poverty line. We provide them rations at cheaper rates under the Public Distribution System.

The 50th Sample Survey had revealed a painful fact . According to it, while the people living below poverty line were not only poor, but some of them were even starving. The survey had estimated the number of such people who were starving. The conclusion was that there are about 5 crore people who do not get two square meals a day throughout the year or part thereof. Their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains for the whole year.

These are the five crore people about whom we hear at times that they have been the victims of starvation. Mal-nourished children and women and sick people are among this lot. This is the picture of starving India.

There is no shortage of foodgrains in the country. The country is not only self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains, but also has surplus stocks available. In such a situation, no one should starve.

Keeping this objective in view, the Hon'ble Prime Minister , Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has launched the "ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA" today.

Under this scheme, one crore poor families (around five crore people) will be identified . The families to be identified will be the poorest of the poor. Each such family will be given 25 kgs. of foodgrains per month - wheat at Rs. 2/- per kg. and rice at Rs. 3/- per kg.

The most difficult task in this scheme is the identification of one crore poorest families. This task has to be completed at the earliest.

The Planning Commission has identified the percentage of poor families in each state. On that basis , the number of beneficiary families out of the one crore poorest families State-wise has been worked out. A statement in this regard is enclosed.

In each State , the criteria for determining the backwardness of districts and poverty are basically available. You may kindly allocate, at the earliest, the beneficiary families under this scheme in your State district wise and ask the district authorities to commence identification of such families.

On the basis of population data , it can be determined as to how many poorest families are to be identified in a Panchayat area. Village revenue officials may get the prescribed forms filled up by such families and certify the same . The officials certifying will be responsible for ensuring that incorrect information is not furnished. This will be the first stage of identification. In the second stage, the work of identification of Antyodaya families should be finalized in a meeting of the Gram Sabha in the presence of the Block Officer.

Antyodaya families should be given a card with a distinct colour . I would very much appreciate if this task of identification is completed within a period of two months.

I am suggesting this process so that the identification made is absolutely correct and the poorest families are chosen for receiving the benefit under the scheme. If the identification is flawed, then the objective behind the ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA will not be realized. I, therefore, urge you to take up the work of identification as a mass movement.

I would request you to take special interest in the scheme.
In fact, this scheme is a Daridra Narayana Yajna.
I believe I will have your full cooperation.

With regards.

Yours sincerely

(Shanta Kumar)

Encl : Statement

-To

All Chief Ministers/Administrators of UTs

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(Department of Food and Public Distribution)

A N T Y O D A Y A A N N A Y O J N A

Guidelines

OBJECTIVE :

Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the 25th December, 2000. This scheme reflects the commitment of the Government of India to ensure food security for all, create a hunger free India in the next five years and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System so as to serve the ***poorest of the poor*** in rural and urban areas. It is for the ***poorest of poor*** that the Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been conceived. It is estimated that 5% of our population are unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis through out the year. Their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates. It is this 5% of our population (5 crores of people or 1 crore families) which constitutes the target group of Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

SCALE AND ISSUE PRICE

Antyodaya Anna Yojana contemplates identification of one crore families out of the number of BPL families who would be provided foodgrains at the rate of 25 Kg. per family per month. The foodgrains will be issued by the Government of India @ Rs.2/- per Kg. for wheat and Rs.3/- per Kg. for rice. The Government of India suggests that in view of abject poverty of this group of beneficiaries, the State Governments may ensure that the end retail price is retained at Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per Kg. for rice.

IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIARIES

The most crucial element for ensuring the success of Antyodaya Anna Yojana is the correct identification of Antyodaya families. It is estimated that there are 6.52 crore families below poverty line in the country as on 1.3.2000. These families are being provided foodgrains under the TPDS at BPL rates. One crore Antyodaya families would constitute about 15.33% of the BPL families in the country. The identification of these families will have to be carried out by the State Governments/UT Administrations, ***from amongst the number of BPL families within the state***. The number of Antyodaya families for each State and UT has been worked out and is at Annexure.

The following steps are suggested for identification of Antyodaya families :

(a) The number of Antyodaya families has been indicated for each State/UT. The States/ UTs may, in turn, distribute this number among the various districts, keeping in view

the incidence of poverty and backwardness etc. for which primary data would be available with the States/UTs from various sources.

(b) Similarly, in the districts the number of Antyodaya families can again be distributed among various Panchayats and the municipal areas.

(c) District Collectors may then start the process of identification after giving it wide publicity. This work may be taken up as a campaign so that people are aware of the process and procedure adopted for identification of beneficiaries under the scheme.

(d) District Collectors may press into service all district level officers working with them for supervising the process of identification in various Development Blocks.

(e) At the Block level, each Panchayat may be assigned to an Officer of Revenue, Development or some other Department who should be held accountable for proper identification of beneficiaries.

(f) In each Panchayat, in the first phase, a tentative list of the poorest of the poor may be drawn up keeping in view the overall number of the families allotted to the Panchayat.

(g) The State Government/UT Administration may devise a suitable form for identifying the beneficiary families under the scheme. The data contained in the form should be verified by the Officer nominated for this purpose. The Officer verifying should be held accountable for the verification.

(h) Once the tentative list for a Panchayat is ready, in the second phase, a meeting of the Gram Sabha may be held. This meeting should be attended by the officer, who has been assigned the particular Panchayat. The officer should ensure that the meeting of Gram Sabha is held when there is a quorum.

(i) The tentative list may be read-out in the meeting of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Sabha may finalise the list of beneficiaries and arrange the names in the order of priority with the family mentioned at Sl.No.1 as the most deserving.

(j) Once the list is approved by the Gram Sabha, it may be consolidated at the Block and then at the District level.

(k) In the case of urban areas, the State Governments/UT Administrations may also undertake a similar exercise by involving the urban Local Bodies. The Preliminary

identification may be done Ward-wise by the Chief Executive of the Urban Local Body with the help of the officers/officials working under him . The preliminary list of beneficiaries may be given wide publicity and also displayed at the Ward Level inviting objections. After going through this process, the consolidated list for the Urban Local Body may be placed before the House of the Urban Local Body and its approval obtained.

(l) In cases where elected bodies in rural/urban areas are not in position, the State Government/UT Administration may evolve a suitable mechanism for identification of beneficiaries in an impartial and objective manner.

ISSUE OF RATION CARDS

After the identification of Antyodaya families, distinctive ration cards to be known as "Antyodaya Ration Card" should be issued to the Antyodaya families by the designated authority. The ration card should have the necessary details about the Antyodaya family, scale of ration etc.

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Once these ration cards are issued, the allocation of foodgrains will be made by the Government of India to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution to the Antyodaya families through Fair Price Shops.

The Government of India expects that the State Governments/UT Administrations will be able to complete the identification of beneficiaries within a period of two months. In case a State Government/UT Administration completes the process earlier, the Government of India will allocate foodgrains in favour of that State Government / UT Administration earlier.

Correct and honest identification of Antyodaya families will be the key to the success of Antyodaya Anna Yojna. It should, therefore, be the endeavour of the State Government/ UT Administration that only the deserving and the needy are identified and they get the benefits of Antyodaya Anna Yojna. The Antyodaya families list should reflect the poorest of the poor in the district.

The Government of India will link the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs to the receipt of utilization certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains have actually reached the Antyodaya families.

ANNEXURE

STATEWISE NUMBER OF POOREST OF THE POOR FAMILIES

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Population Projected as on 1.3.2000 (In lakhs)	Average size of Households as per 1991 Census	Precentage of BPL Population in the State	Total No. of BPL Households in the State (In lakhs)	Poorest of the the Poor Households in the State (15.33% of BPL Households) (In lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	754.66	4.77	25.68	40.63	6.228
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11.92	4.93	40.86	0.99	0.151
3	Assam	261.96	5.83	40.86	18.36	2.815
4	Bihar	731.11	6.16	54.96	65.23	10.000
5	Chattishgarh	249.25	5.65	42.52	18.75	2.874
6	Delhi	139.64	5.02	14.69	4.09	0.626
7	Goa	15.95	4.99	14.92	0.48	0.073
8	Gujarat	482.52	5.51	24.21	21.20	3.250
9	Haryana	198.31	6.30	25.05	7.89	1.209
10	Himachal Pradesh	67.11	5.34	40.86	5.14	0.787
11	Jammu & Kashmir	99.45	5.52	40.86	7.36	1.129
12	Jharkhand	268.31	6.16	54.96	23.94	3.665
13	Karnataka	520.91	5.52	33.16	31.29	4.797
14	Kerala	322.62	5.28	25.43	15.54	2.382
15	Madhya Pradesh	548.22	5.65	42.52	41.25	6.324
16	Maharashtra	911.15	5.14	36.86	65.34	10.017
17	Manipur	25.18	6.19	40.86	1.66	0.255
18	Meghalaya	24.34	5.42	40.86	1.83	0.281
19	Mizoram	9.52	5.70	40.86	0.68	0.105
20	Nagaland	16.84	5.57	40.86	1.24	0.189
21	Orissa	358.57	5.28	48.56	32.98	5.055
22	Punjab	235.36	5.92	11.77	4.68	0.717
23	Rajasthan	535.59	6.04	27.41	24.31	3.726
24	Sikkim	5.59	5.33	41.43	0.43	0.067
25	Tamilnadu	617.74	4.45	35.03	48.63	7.455
26	Tripura	37.82	5.24	40.86	2.95	0.452
27	Uttaranchal	75.84	6.22	40.85	4.98	0.763
28	Uttar Pradesh	1626.04	6.22	40.85	106.79	16.371
29	West Bengal	790.06	5.44	35.66	51.79	7.939
30	Andaman & Nicobar	3.86	4.75	34.47	0.28	0.043
31	Chandigarh	8.88	4.38	11.35	0.23	0.035
32	D&N Haveli	1.90	5.28	50.84	0.18	0.028
33	Daman & Diu	1.40	5.30	15.80	0.04	0.006
34	Lakshdweep	0.71	6.23	25.04	0.03	0.004
35	Pondicherry	11.11	4.97	37.40	0.84	0.128
	TOTAL	**9969.44**		**36.15**	**652.04**	**99.954**