

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3269

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000

FOOD FOR WORK

BASUDEB ACHARIA;INDRAJIT GUPTA;RAMDAS ATHAWALE;SAMAR CHOUDHURY

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

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to start food for work programme to clear bulging wheat stock in the godowns of Food Corporation of India;
- (b) if so, the details of the said programme;
- (c) the quantum of foodgrains proposed to be distributed under the scheme alongwith the value thereof; and
- (d) the alternative plan to deal with excess wheat stock in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) and (c) : The Government have decided that foodgrains (wheat and rice) at the rates applicable for below poverty line (BPL) families will be allotted to the State Governments for undertaking 'Food for Work' programmes in the States. The allocations will be made to the States after considering the demands made by them and keeping into account merits of each case. The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat for BPL families is Rs. 415/- per quintal effective from 25.7.2000.

(d) : The following steps have been taken to reduce the excess stocks of foodgrains from the Central Pool:-

(i) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.07.2000.

(ii) Open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000.

(iii) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice were revised down-wards on 25.7.2000.

(iv) The CIPs of rice and wheat for APL families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower. The open market rates being less than the economic cost, the States can avail of this offer and make foodgrains available to APL population at reduced rates.

(v) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 kg. per family per month is now being made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.

(vi) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as begger homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward students/Nari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.

(vii) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

(viii) Foodgrains at the rates applicable for BPL families will be allotted to the State Governments for undertaking `Food for Work` programmes in the States, as also for the Greening India Campaign.

(ix) Foodgrains will be allocated at BPL rates for development schemes

(where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

(x) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per tonne.