

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2965

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001

SURPLUS STOCK AND STARVATION DEATHS

GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;RAMJI MANJHI;RUPCHAND PAL;SUBODH ROY;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) whether starvation deaths have occurred in Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar and in other States also because of failure of FCI to provide foodgrains in drought hit and famine hit areas, despite record buffer stock of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial measures in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether a public interest litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court alleging starvation deaths;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether the Supreme Court has issued any guidelines to the Union Government; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the action taken to implement the guidelines of the Hon`ble Supreme Court?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): The information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c),(d)&(e): The Government has taken a number of measures to utilize the stocks of foodgrains with it. These include inter alia, increase in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, downward revision of Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice, open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced prices, allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes and exports of wheat and rice.

Besides the above measures, Food For Work Programme (FFW) has been launched in the drought affected rural areas of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan 21.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted so far to these States, free of cost for FFW.

The Government has also decided to make special additional allocation of foodgrains to the drought affected States at BPL rates for distribution to the drought affected families (both BPL and APL ) at the rate of 20 kg. per family per month for a period of 3 months. So far about 13.07 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted in favour of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh on this account.

In addition to above, feed category foodgrains have also been made available to drought affected State free of cost.

(f): Yes, Sir.

(g): A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001 has been filed by People`s Union for Civil Liberties Vs. Union of India and others. The petition refers to the stocks of foodgrains lying with the Government and relief measures undertaken in drought affected areas, especially in Rajasthan. The petitioners have prayed to the Hon`ble Supreme Court for issue of directions to respondents to enforce the Famine Code, 1962 drawn up by Government of Rajasthan; release of surplus foodgrains for drought affected areas; frame a fresh scheme for public distribution for scientific and reasonable distribution of foodgrains; and pass such other order or orders as the Hon`ble Court may deem fit.

(h) & (i): The writ petition was called for hearing by Hon`ble Court on 23.7.2001. The Hon`ble Court in its interim order inter-alia directed the States to see that all PDS shops, if closed, are reopened and start functioning within one week from the date of order and regular supplies are made. Two weeks time was granted by the Apex Court for filing of reply affidavits by Union of India, FCI and the concerned State Governments. Orders have been issued by the Government on 27.7.2001 for opening of all Fair Price Shops.