

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4030

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001

PRODUCTION AND AVAILABILITY OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether according to the Economic Survey for 2000-01, net production of foodgrains in the past decade has gone up from 142 million tonnes in 1991 to 169 million tonnes in 2000;
- (b) if so, whether on the other hand, the per-capita net availability of foodgrains (cereals and pulses) per day has declined from 510.1 grams to 466 grams during this period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the procurement of foodgrains as a percentage of net production has gone up steadily since 1991 from 12.7 percent to 19.7 per cent;
- (d) if so, whether the public distribution as a percentage of net per capita availability has fallen from 13.1 per cent to 7.1 per cent;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps being taken to provide food to the needy in the country?

Answer

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

(a): As per the statistics available from the Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the total production of foodgrains during 1990-1991 was 176.39 million tonnes. During 1999-2000, the provisional production of foodgrains is 208.87 million tonnes.

(b): As per statistics available from the Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the net availability of foodgrains including cereals and pulses was 510.1 gms per capita per day in 1991. It became 458.6 gms per capita per day during the year 2000.

(c): The per capita net availability of foodgrains depends upon various factors, i.e., production, net imports, change in stocks, population etc.

(d): Procurement of foodgrains (rice and wheat) as a percentage of the production has increased from 13.09% in 1991-92 to 22.01% in 2000-2001.

(e) & (f): The offtake of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) under Public Distribution System (PDS) which was 14.95 million tonnes in 1990-91 increased to 17.07 million tonnes in 1999-2000. The production of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) which was 129.43 million tonnes during 1990-91 increased to 165.05 million tonnes in 1999-2000. The variation in offtake under PDS depends upon various factors i.e. Open Market Prices, Central Issue Prices, Policies under PDS from time to time etc.

(g): The steps taken by Government to increase the supply of foodgrains to the needy people of the country is annexed.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4030 DUE ANSWER ON 14.12.2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Steps taken by Government to increase the supply of foodgrains to the needy people of the country:

1. The allocation of foodgrains to BPL families under TPDS was increased from 10 kg to 20 kg per family per month from April, 2000.
2. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice were revised downwards on 25.7.2000.

3. Open sale of wheat at reduced prices was started from 11.7.2000 and the open sale of rice was started from 4.9.2000.
4. The CIPs of rice and wheat for APL families were 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.
5. The basis of allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was changed to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the projected population of 1995.
6. Foodgrains at BPL rates are now made available for allotment to State Government @ 5 kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, orphanages, and nari niketans etc.
7. Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families are now made available for all welfare schemes, including scheme for supply of foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC hostels, implemented by various Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India.
8. It was decided to extend the coverage under the Annapurna Scheme to the indigent old persons even in case of those receiving old age pensions from the State Governments. The M/o Rural Development are taking necessary action to amend the Scheme.
9. Foodgrains at the rate applicable for BPL families are now available for allotment to the State Govt. for undertaking Food for Work Programme in the State as also for the `Greening India Campaign`.
10. Foodgrains are allotted at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Govt. and endorsed by the Administrative Ministry in the Govt. of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme.
11. 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 MT.
12. Govt. permitted FCI to offer 20 lakh MTs of rice for export @ Rs. 6750/- per MT to all exporters for the year 2000-2001. For the year 2001-2002, FCI has been permitted to offer 30 lakh MTs of rice to all exporters @ Rs. 5650/- per MT for raw rice and Rs. 6000/- per MT for parboiled rice.
13. 30.14 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (18.99 lakh tonnes rice and 11.14 lakh tonnes wheat) was allotted free of cost to Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for undertaking Food for Work Programmes in the drought affected areas.
14. The CIPs of wheat and rice for APL families have been reduced from Rs. 830 to Rs.610 per quintal and from Rs.1130 to Rs.830 per quintal respectively w.e.f. 12.7.2001.
15. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has been increased from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month at BPL rates from July, 2001.
16. The Government has launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for the poorest of the poor to enhance food security for all and to create a hunger free India. Under this scheme about one crore families out of the number of BPL families, 5% of the total population, would be provided foodgrains at the rate of 25 kg per family per month. The foodgrains are issued @ Rs.2/- per kg for wheat and Rs.3/- per kg for rice. The identification of these families will have to be carried out by the State Governments/UT Administrations out of the number of BPL families within the State.
17. Under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be allotted to the States/UTs free of cost annually. The economic cost of foodgrains is Rs.5000 crores. The Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal Central Ministry for the programme, has launched the scheme on 25th September, 2001. The Department of Food and Public Distribution will make allocation of foodgrains under the Scheme. So far 9.75 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted under the scheme by Department of Food and Public Distribution.