

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
HUGE STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) Whether the total foodgrain stocks in the country are getting accumulated year after year beyond the normal requirement of buffer stocks;
- (b) If so, the level of accumulations during the past three years particularly that of wheat and rice;
- (c) If so, the reasons for such huge accumulations and the manner in which they are going to be disposed off;
- (d) whether some of the foodgrains in the godowns have rotted and have become unfit for human consumption; and
- (e) if so, the State-wise details thereof of the foodgrains which have rotted during the last three years alongwith the steps initiated to protect the foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b): The stock of rice and wheat for the last three years in the Central Pool against the prescribed buffer stocking norms is indicated below:-

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

As on	Foodgrains		Buffer norms		Excess stock	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1-1-2000	14.72		17.17	8.40	8.40	8.77
1-1-2001	20.70		25.04	8.40	8.40	16.64
1-1-2002	25.62		32.41	8.40	8.40	24.01

(c): Accumulation of excess stock in Central Pool is due to bumper crops during the previous years, record procurement of wheat and rice and low offtake of foodgrains by States/UTs under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes due to easy accessibility of foodgrains in the open market. The steps taken by Government to increase the offtake of foodgrains are given in the Annex.

(d): There has been no report of the foodgrains having rotted and consequently becoming unfit for human consumption in the godowns of FCI.

(e): Does not arise. FCI adopts the principle of 'first in first out' in the issue of stocks, so that the older stocks are issued first.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 358 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.03.2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO INCREASE OFFTAKE OF FOODGRAINS TO LIQUIDATE EXCESS STOCKS

i) The allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families was revised w.e.f 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As a result, the number of BPL families eligible for subsidised foodgrains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crore families.

ii) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10 kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from April 2000, and further to 25 kg. per family per month from July 2001.

iii) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice was reduced as under with effect from 12.7.2001, which will be valid till 31.3.2002:

(Rs. per quintal)

BPL APL

Wheat	415	610
Rice	565	830

iv) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced on 25.12.2000 for the one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. The scheme is now under implementation in all States/UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is given 25 kg. of foodgrains @ Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

v) Foodgrains are made available at BPL rates for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg.per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as beggar homes, orphanages/Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

vi) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families are being allocated for all the welfare schemes including SC/ST/OBC hostels scheme, implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

vii) Foodgrains are being 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.

viii) Government has allocated 38.33 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, from January 2001 to 12.2.2002 for undertaking Food for Work programmes in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. Besides, Government had allocated one lakh MTs of foodgrains for distribution in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat in January 2001.

ix) Government of India has decided to give additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the drought affected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @ 20 kg per family per month for a period of three months in the current financial year. The Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have already been allocated additional foodgrains. The Govt. of Bihar has been given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rate for flood relief.

x) In November 2000, it was decided to permit FCI to make wheat available from the Central Pool for the purpose of export. A quantity of 42.96 lakh tonnes of wheat has been exported so far. With effect from the current financial year i.e. 2001-2002, FCI has also been making available rice for the purpose of export. The quantity lifted so far is 14.03 lakh tonnes.

xi) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 25th September 2001 based on the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 13.2.2002 has been 26.41 lakh MTs.

xii) The Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat was continued during the current financial year 2001-2002. The quantity sold from April 2001 to 15.2.2002 was 37.87 lakh tonnes.