

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:374
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE OF GODWONS
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) Whether the expenditure incurred on maintaining the foodgrains stocks in godowns in the proper condition have considerably gone up;
- (b) if so, the amount spent during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to reduce the expenditure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereto?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. The expenditure on maintaining the foodgrains stocks during the last 3 years alongwith quantity of buffer stocks is as under:-

Year Amount (Rs. Crores) Average stocks (Lakh Tonnes)

1998-99	5454	165.02
1999-2000 (P)	5636	182.98
2000-2001 (P)	6624	246.16

(P) Provisional

(c),(d)&(e): In order to reduce the buffer carrying cost, Government has initiated following steps to liquidate the stock:

1. Increased allocation of foodgrains @ 25 Kg. Per family per month under BPL.
2. Reduction of Central Issue Price w.e.f. 25th July, 2000 and further reduction in APL price by 30% during July, 2001.
3. Offering of wheat and rice at price lower than economic cost under open sales.
4. Issues under various welfare schemes like Mid Day Meal, Nutrition Programme, Food for Work, Annapurna and schemes for Indigent People (Destitute women & children), SC/ST & OBC Hostels etc. at BPL prices instead of economic price.
5. Wheat & Rice are being issued @ Rs.2/- & Rs.3/- per Kg. of respectively under Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
6. Export of wheat and rice at prices lower than economic cost.
7. Wheat and Rice is also being issued under Sampoorne Gramin Rojgar Yojana sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development in the States of Chattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.