

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:798

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006

SHORTAGE OF WHEAT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of wheat for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, whether some State Governments have sought additional wheat for APL families under the PDS;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (d) the quantity of additional wheat allocated to each State during the last three months and the current month; and
- (e) the instructions issued by the Union Government for the distribution of wheat under PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): There has been a decline in stocks of wheat in the recent past in view of which the allocation of wheat under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was rationalized on the basis of each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's offtake, whichever was lower. For Above Poverty Line (APL) category, a 25% cut on this has been imposed in respect of rice consuming States and Delhi. Notwithstanding, the State Government can seek allocation of rice in lieu of reduction of wheat allocation. Thus, there has been no change in the overall allocation of foodgrains as per the entitlement.

(b), (c) & (d): The Central Government has received requests for additional allocation of wheat for the APL families. As such, keeping in view the improved stock position, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has released 100,000 Tonnes each of wheat, under APL category, during the months of September, October and November 2006, to meet the enhanced requirement. Copies of the allocation orders are enclosed at Annexures A, B and C.

(e): The Central Government has directed all the State Governments/Union Territories to ensure that the foodgrains (including wheat) allocated under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are distributed amongst the actual beneficiaries of the TPDS and that there is no diversion/leakage in the distribution.