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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3999
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
FOOD SECURITY
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubts have recently been raised about the sense of security that availability of food has ceased to be a concern;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the failure on food security front has led to escalating prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure food security to all and check prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Adequate stocks of foodgrains are available in the Central Pool. As on 01.04.2010, the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool was 428.38 lakh tons as against the requirement of 212 lakh tons under the existing norms for buffer and strategic reserve.

In addition to the normal allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) Government has allocated 20 lakh tons of wheat and 10 lakh tons of rice to States / Union Territories at Minimum Support Price (MSP) based/derived prices plus average freight cost for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March,2010. Another 25.80 lakh tons of wheat has been allocated for sale to bulk consumers / small processors during the period.

Government has also made a special ad-hoc additional allocation of 36.08 lakh tons of foodgrains at MSP based /derived prices to States / Union Territories for two months (January and February 2010) for distribution @ 10 kg per family per month for all accepted number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families in order to check inflationary trend in food prices.