

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1430  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010  
SHORTAGE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the country recently faced the crisis of shortage of essential commodities including foodgrains and rise in their prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has urged the States to create surplus stocks to meet future crisis and check prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of States in this regard; and
- (e) the quantum of foodgrains allocated and lifted during the last one year and the current year alongwith its impact on prices, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): There was record production of rice and wheat. There are ample stocks of wheat and rice in the central pool. The Central pool stock of wheat as on 1.7.2010 was 335.84 lakh tonnes and of rice was 242.66 lakh tonnes. India is not self-sufficient in some of the agricultural commodities, particularly edible oils and pulses. About 40% of edible oil and about 15% of the total pulses requirements are imported. The domestic production of pulses has been around 14 -14.8 million tonnes during the last three years. The demand for pulses was estimated around 17 – 18 MTs during the same period. The gap between demand and supply is filled by import of variety of pulses from different countries depending upon their availability. There was low sugar production in the country during the last sugar season 2008- 09 and the anticipated low production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10 in comparison to the estimated domestic consumption. Government measures to moderate price rise in essential commodities are given in Annexure II

The retail prices of essential commodities such as wheat, atta, pulses such as gram dal, urad dal, edible oil such as groundnut oil, vanaspati, mustard oil, potato and onion had increased over the last 3 months in 4 metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The details of retail prices of essential commodities in 4 Metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai is given in Annexure I.

(c) to (e): Buffer stock of rice and wheat is maintained by the Central Government. Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 10.3.2000, or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by the State Governments, whichever is less. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted 6.25 crore families in the country. Allocations under Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

The details of allocation and offtake during the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 are enclosed at Annexure-III and IV.