

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1964
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
TRANSPORTATION OF FOODGRAINS
Vundavalli Shri Aruna Kumar

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

(a) whether the Government is transporting rice to Karnataka from Punjab for Public Distribution System incurring huge expenditure on transportation despite having surplus stocks in the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the comparative figures of cost incurred in transportation of rice to Karnataka from Punjab and Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Rice is transported from Punjab to Karnataka for distribution under Public Distribution System. As Punjab is procuring more than 90 lakh MTs of rice every year which is not consumed locally, it has to be moved to various consuming States including Karnataka.

Both raw and parboiled rice are procured in Andhra Pradesh but consumption there is of raw rice mainly. Therefore, preference is given to move boiled rice out of Andhra Pradesh. However raw rice is also moved ex Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka depending upon the availability of railway rakes in Andhra Pradesh, availability of surplus raw rice after meeting the requirement of PDS and buffer stock, likely procurement in Andhra Pradesh etc.

(b): The details indicating the comparative figures of the cost incurred in transportation of rice ex-Punjab to Karnataka and ex-Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka for the period from April, 2010 to January, 2011 are as under:

Ex. AP to Karnataka Ex. Punjab to Karnataka

Total quantity moved 1.84 LMT 13.72 LMT
Total freight paid Rs.13.70crores Rs.243.98 crores