

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:23
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to make additional allocation of foodgrains for the poorest districts of the country with a view to providing relief to the poor from rising prices and also to liquidate the surplus stocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the quantum of foodgrains allocated and distributed under the said dispensation;
- (c) whether the districts covered under the other food based welfare schemes are proposed to be covered under the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.23 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 2.8.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): Considering the surplus availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the requests received from States for additional allocations of food grains, and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Government has been making additional allocations of food grains to States/Union Territories(UTs) from time to time, for distribution to the beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System. During 2010-11, the Government made 105.66 lakh tons of rice and wheat as additional allocation including 50 lakh tons for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at BPL prices. Similarly, during the current year, the Government made an adhoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices in all the districts of the States/UTs.

2. In the Writ Petition (Civil) No.196 of 2001 – PUCL v/s UOI & Others on Right to Food, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its order dated 14.5.2011 has directed that as a one-time measure, it is absolutely imperative in the larger public interest, to reserve 5 million tons of food grains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of our society. The Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System (CVC on PDS) headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa has been requested by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to identify the poorest districts or poorest segments of society and ensure that additionally allocated food grains reach this segment from time to time. The CVS on PDS has identified 174 backward districts based on the lists of districts given by the Planning Commission and the State Governments.

3. Pursuant to the above orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the recommendations made by the CVC on PDS, additional allocation of 2,57,336.67 M.Ts of rice and wheat have been made, on 21st July 2011, for three months to 45 districts in eight States.