

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
Rajesh Shri M. B.;Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) whether there is adequate stock of foodgrains in the country to meet the domestic demand during the ensuing year and to control rising prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the anticipated demand and estimated stocks during the ensuing year;
- (c) whether the Government has made additional allocation under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to control prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to allow export of foodgrains during the ensuing year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to ensure availability of foodgrains in the country at affordable price?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.11.2011 was 557.54 lakh tons comprising of 260.83 lakh tons of rice and 296.71 lakh tons of wheat. The current level of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool is adequate to meet the requirement of foodgrains as per existing level of allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) during the current year.

Under the TPDS, allocations of foodgrains are made to States/Union Territories(UT) @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made depending upon the availability of stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake. The present level of allocations to APL families is between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/ UTs. The allocation of foodgrains are made for other welfare schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, ICDS, etc on the basis of assessed requirements under these schemes. On the above basis, the requirement of foodgrains for TPDS and OWS upto March 2012 is estimated at around 276 lakh tons.

(c) & (d): Government has made additional allocation of foodgrains of 50 lakh tons to BPL families at BPL prices on 16.5.2011 and 50 lakh tons to APL families at APL prices on 30.6.2011 under Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS). In addition to the above, 23.67 lakh tons of foodgrains has been allocated to 27 States for distribution in 174 poorest/backward districts in pursuance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(e) & (f): Government has allowed, vide Notification dated the 9th September 2011, export of non-basmati rice and wheat on private account from privately held stocks under Open General License.

The Government has made allocation of a quantity of 612.07 lakh tons of rice and wheat under TPDS and OWS during the current year, thus making substantial quantity of foodgrains available through the Public Distribution System at subsidized prices.