

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3133  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
SHORTAGE OF FOOD ITEMS  
Ering Shri Ninong

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

- (a) whether shortage of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been reported from the North Eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh, particularly in the remote areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of foodgrains and other items supplied to the remote areas in these States during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of rationed items to these States?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The commodity-wise details are as under:

**FOODGRAINS-** Government is making full allocation of foodgrains to all the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families in the North Eastern States, including Arunachal Pradesh @ 35 kg/family/month under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Also, to augment the availability of foodgrains in these States, additional allocation of foodgrains, in addition to the normal TPDS allocation, have been made to these States from time to time. The details of the allocations made to the North Eastern States during the last three years are as per Annex.

The TPDS operations are a continuous process. No shortage of foodgrains has been reported from FCI depots recently except for the State of Arunachal Pradesh. In Arunachal Pradesh some difficulties have been faced due to railway gauge conversion works in Rangiya-Murkongselek Section; Banderdewa and Bhalukpong depots on account of Stay order granted by Itanagar Bench of Gauhati High Court; and Seppa and Tawang due to non-availability of stocks in the Bhalukpong depot, which at present feed the depots. Appeal has been filed in the Division Bench of Gauhati High Court for expeditious settlement of the case. Also, the State Government has been requested to lift stocks directly from the nearest Food Corporation depots in Assam. The requests received from the States/Union Territories (UTs), including Arunachal Pradesh for extension of validity period are considered as and when received.

Government has taken several measures to increase and improve the availability of foodgrains made to States under TPDS. The annual allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs, including the NE States, at the beginning of the year. States/UTs, including the NE States, are allowed to lift allocated foodgrains in advance. With a view to enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to build up stocks, Government has allowed States/UTs for lifting and distribution of upto six months ration under TPDS in one go. The issue of providing adequate rail rakes is also taken up with Railways from time to time. Government regularly reviews the implementation of TPDS functioning including availability and lifting of foodgrains by NE States by holding Conferences, review meetings, etc.

**KEROSENE (SKO):** Government makes Quarterly Allocation of PDS SKO to States / UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS) on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only, as provided under the SKO Control Order 1993. Further distribution of the PDS SKO allotted to the respective State / UT within its territory is the responsibility of the respective State / UT Government. The details of allocations of PDS Kerosene quota made to the NE States including the State of Arunachal Pradesh and the quota lifted by them during the last three years are as per Annex.

**LEVY SUGAR:** All North Eastern States except the State of Sikkim are FCI operated States and the allocation of levy sugar quota to the North Eastern States is made in full in favour of Food Corporation of India. The monthly levy sugar release orders are issued in favour of FCI who in turn lift the allotted quantity from the sugar mills concerned and have it distributed among the FCI operated States through their designated depots. Normally the supply against allocation remains uninterrupted but occasionally there are reports of minor interruptions in supply of levy sugar in some of the depots due to operational difficulties. In November '11, there was a report on non-availability of stock in Arunachal Pradesh due to stay imposed by Hon'ble Gauhati High Court on NIT floated by FCI for appointment of contractors for movement of stock and disruption in the rail movement.

The details of the quantity of levy sugar offtake in respect of North Eastern States for last three years are at Annex.

The FCI draws a monthly planning programme for movement of sugar from the sugar mills concerned to the consuming designated

depots of FCI and the same is monitored regularly by holding periodic meetings with the intent to ensure availability of sugar in the States concerned. Any request from the State Government either for extension of validity period for depositing the cost or for lifting of levy sugar from the designated FCI depots to the States concerned is immediately acceded to. As a step taken to ensure adequate supply of sugar in these States, FCI was directed to make available sufficient stock in each depot to cater two months requirements. Further, the earlier system of monthly allocation of sugar to FCI has been shifted to quarterly basis from April, 2012 onwards.