

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6390

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012

FOODGRAIN ALLOCATION UNDER PDS

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

- (a) whether a major portion of the nutritional requirement of the rural population is met through foodgrains/cereals distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the stock of foodgrains, total allocation and offtake under PDS during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has reduced the allocation for the Below Poverty Line/Above Poverty Line in some States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains to the States;
- (e) whether the calorific intake in rural areas has declined despite allocation under PDS due to poor quality and lower allocation of foodgrains;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard; and
- (g) whether suggestions have been received to discontinue supply of foodgrains cereals under PDS and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Based on the report No 510(61/1.0/3), Public Distribution System and other Sources Household Consumption, 2004-05, NSS 61<sup>st</sup> Round (July 2004-June 2005), brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, June, 2007, the monthly consumption of rice and wheat/atta by the households below poverty line during 2004-05 are given below.

Monthly average quantity (Kg) consumed per household having BPL or Antyodaya ration cards in Rural (All India) from:

RICE		WHEAT/ATTA			
PDS	Other	Total	PDS	Other	Total
Sources			Sources		

9.527	25.238	34.765	3.969	10.123	14.092
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Foodgrains allocated under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are only supplementary in nature, made to meet upto 50% of the cereal requirement of the beneficiaries. However, for the rest of the requirement, the targeted population has access to the open market.

Details of stock position of foodgrains (rice & wheat) in the Central Pool during the last three years are as under:

(in Lakh tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
(As on			
1st			
April)			

2009	216.04	134.29	350.33
2010	267.13	161.25	428.38

State-wise details of the allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat) made under TPDS during the last three years are as per Annexure.

(c) & (d): No reduction has been made under TPDS allocations for Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) & Above Poverty Line (APL) families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool, Government has been making additional allocation of foodgrains over and above the normal allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPOS) from time to time. During the year, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, the Government has allocated 36.08 lakh tons, 136.72 lakh tons and 123.69 lakh tons of additional foodgrains (rice and wheat) respectively covering Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

(e) & (f): As per National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) latest Report No. 540 on Nutritional Intake in India based on 66th round of NSS Survey (July 2009-June 2010), at all India level, about 19.4% of the rural households had a calorie intake of less than 2160 kilo calories per day in 2009-10. Further analysis of data reveals that in the bottom 10% of the population ranked by monthly per capita consumer expenditure, similar figure for rural households was 62.3%.

To make available foodgrains to the targeted population to enable them to increase their consumption levels, besides allocation of foodgrains made to States/UTs under TPDS, as mentioned above, Government also allocates foodgrains under different Welfare Schemes, which include Annapurna Yojana, Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (Sabla). During 2011-12, 49.56 lakh tons of foodgrains was allocated to these Welfare Schemes.

(g): Proposals have been received from some State Government namely Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL /AAY families on pilot basis in select districts instead of distribution of foodgrains and sugar to them under TPDS. A draft scheme is under preparation to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY families under TPDS.