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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1693 ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012 FOOD STOCK Das Shri Bhakta Charan;Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

(a) whether the Government has adequate food stocks to meet the crisis of increasing food prices and check hunger;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has released additional amount of foodgrains through Public Distribution System to meet the challenges of food inflation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures adopted by the Government to ensure foodgrains at affordable prices to consumers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1st November, 2012 was 695.29 lakh tons, comprising 289.54 lakh tons of rice and 405.75 lakh tons of wheat. The current level of foodgrains is adequate to meet the requirements of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) at the existing level of allocations.

(c) to (e): During the year 2012-13 the Government has allocated 50 lakh tons of foodgrains for additional Below Poverty Line(BPL) families in the States/ Union Territories(UTs) and 19.42 lakh tons of foodgrains for additional BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) families in the poorest districts of the States. Additional allocation of about 60 lakh tons of foodgrains has also been made during 2012-13 for ensuring 15kg-35kg per family per month for accepted number of Above Poverty Line (APL) families in the States/UTs. Thus substantial additional allocation has been made during the current year, over and above the normal TPDS allocation to ensure foodgrains at affordable prices to consumers.