

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1297  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013  
LIFTING OF FOODGRAINS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether a number of States have failed to lift their quota of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last several years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether in view of the low offtake by the States, the Government proposes to review the policy of allocation and supply of foodgrains under PDS and other schemes for Below Poverty Line families;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the uncertainty about the offtake has affected the allocation of foodgrains for export resulting in overflowing stocks and damage to foodgrains; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The reasons for lower offtake by the States/ Union Territories (UTs) include inter alia, paucity of storage space and funds— constraints faced by the State Governments affecting sufficient offtake by the States/UTs and non-availability of adequate number of rail rakes and labour problems in Food Corporation of India (FCI) which adversely affect timely transportation of foodgrains.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) No, Madam. The offtake of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been satisfactory and the Government has approved export of wheat from Central Pool during the current year in view of higher production and procurement of foodgrains resulting in surplus stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.