

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2997

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

SHORTAGE OF WHEAT FOR APL

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of wheat for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families under the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Governments have sought additional wheat for APL families under the Public Distribution System;
- (d) if so, the Steps taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (e) the quantity of additional wheat allocated to each State during the last one year and the current year; and
- (f) the instructions issued by the Union Government for the distribution of wheat under TPDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Allocations of foodgrains-rice and wheat-for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon availability of stocks of these foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs. There is no shortage of wheat for allocations under APL category.

Requests have been received from States/UTs from time to time for additional allocations of wheat under APL category. Considering these requests, the Government has made additional allocations of wheat to these States/UT Governments.

A comparative statement on allocation of wheat for APL category made during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Annex-I.

Under Open Market Sales Scheme, additional wheat has been allocated to State/UT Governments during the last year and the current year. State-wise details of allocation of wheat made under OMSS for distribution to retail consumers and for sale to bulk consumers during the last year and the current year are at Annex – II.

State/UT Governments are required to lift the allocated quantity of wheat and rice under OMSS from the godowns of FCI and distribute it to retail consumers through their own Corporations/ cooperatives/federations/self-help groups or any other Government or Semi-Government organization. The State/UT Government may also use this wheat for various educational institutions, SC/ST/women hostels, etc. They may also convert wheat into flour for distribution to retail consumers. In addition to retail consumers, State Governments may sell wheat to small processors of wheat like chakkies, bakeries, etc. whose monthly consumption of wheat is less than 30 tons.