

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

2377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the existing buffer stock of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether the stock of foodgrains exceeds the limit of buffer stock; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to use the buffer stock for the benefit of people below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) and (b) The stock of rice and wheat as on 1.7.2002 in the Central Pool against the prescribed buffer stocking norms of the corresponding period were as under:

<i>(Fig. In million tonnes)*</i>			
Commodity	Stock	Buffer Norms	Surplus Stock
Rice	21.94	10.00	11.94
Wheat	41.07	14.30	26.77
TOTAL:	63.01	24.30	38.71

(*) Provisional

(c) Various existing Welfare Schemes/measures by which people Below Poverty Line (BPL) are being benefited with the Central Pool stock of foodgrains are enclosed.

Statement

Welfare Schemes/Measures in the Benefit of Below Poverty Line (BPL) People

- (1) Foodgrains quota for Below Poverty Line (BPL) has been Raised from 25 KGS. to 35 KGS. per family per month since April, 2001 under PDS (Public Distribution System).
- (2) The allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) familes was revised w.e.f. 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projection of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000.

As a result, the number of BPL families eligible for subsidized food grains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crores families.

- (3) Under P.D.S., the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme is also running in all States/UTs in which each of the Antyodaya family (Poorest of the poor BPL families) is given of foodgrains @ Rs. 2.00 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3.00 per kg. for rice. The foodgrains given under this scheme has been increased from 25 kgs. to 35 kgs. per family/per month w.e.f. April, 2001.
- (4) Free of cost foodgrains is allocated to drought flood and national calamities affected States under Food For Work (FFW). From January, 2001 to 7.3.2002, 39.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under FFW have been allotted to 11 States.
- (5) 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are being supplied every year free of cost of States/UTs under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).
- (6) A decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the Work Food Programme.

Subsidy for Handling Foodgrains

2378. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy being provided by Government for handling of foodgrains;

(b) the reasons for payment of food subsidy;

(c) whether the subsidy is being paid to the farmers; and

(d) if so how the farmers are benefited by the payment of subsidy?