

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Allocations of food grains for APL category to States and UTs are being made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. However, in view of the declining stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the allocation of rice under TPDS to States/UTs, including Kerala for the APL category was rationalized with effect from April, 2007 on the basis of offtake levels during the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The revised allocation of APL rice made in April 2007 was, thus, closer to the level of actual offtake during previous years.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made @ 17056 tons per month on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years i.e. 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the state Government and higher availability of rice in the central pool, adhoc/additional/festival allocations of 1.46 lakh tons of rice were made during the year taking to the total rice allocation of the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons.

For the current year 2009-2010, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons. There is an increase in the allocation of APL rice to Kerala during the current year as compared to the previous two years.

Payment of sugarcane price to sugarcane farmers

†1552. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete steps for immediate payment of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growing farmers in the sugarcane crushing session 2009-10;
- (b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The provisions relating to payment of sugarcane price to sugarcane growers for the sugarcane supplied by them to sugar mills are contained in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 which has been issued in terms of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These provisions are applicable uniformly to all sugar mills in the country. In order to ensure payment of sugarcane dues to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills, the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 was amended in November, 2000 providing that where any

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

producer of sugar or his agent defaults in paying the whole or any part of the price of sugarcane to a farmer of sugarcane or a grower's cooperative society within 14 days from the delivery of sugarcane or where there is an agreement in writing between the parties for payment of price within a specified time and any producer or his agent defaults in making payment within the agreed time specified therein, the amount of price of sugarcane and interest due thereon is recoverable from the producer of sugar or his agent as arrears of land revenue.

Procurement of wheat

1553. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement targets fixed for the major wheat producing States during the last three years; and

(b) which of these States achieved their respective procurement targets in the marketing seasons during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Under the existing policy of foodgrains procurement, FCI and State Agencies procure wheat conforming to the prescribed specifications from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the options to sell their wheat to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Hence, procurement is open ended and no targets are fixed. However, estimates are drawn in the meeting of State Food Secretaries of wheat producing States before commencement of each Rabi Marketing Season. The estimated and actual procurement wheat during last three Rabi Marketing Seasons and current RMS 2009-10 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Estimated and Actual procurement of wheat in last 3 years

(in lakh tonnes)

State/UT	RMS 2006-07		RMS 2007-08		RMS 2008-09		RMS 2009-10	
	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual
	Proc.	Proc.	Proc.	Proc.	Proc.	Proc.	Proc.	Proc. *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Punjab	85.00	69.46	75	67.81	80	99.41	115	107.19
Haryana	42.00	22.29	45	33.50	40	52.37	55	69.12
Uttar Pradesh	25.00	0.49	15	5.46	20	31.37	35	38.82
Uttarakhand	1.00	-	1	0.02	1	0.85	1.1	1.45
Madhya Pradesh	5.00	-	3	0.57	3	24.10	20	19.18
Gujarat	-	-	0.5	-	2	4.15	2	0.75
Rajasthan	2.00	0.02	2	3.83	5	9.35	3	11.52