etc. The prices have risen due to interplay of market sentiments and demand-production gap and have also fallen from time to time responding to the measures taken by Government to augment domestic availability of sugar and enforce stockholding limits.

(b) The Central Government has been following the policy of partial control on sugar since 1967-68 except for two short spells from 25th May, 1971 to 30th June, 1972 and from 16th August, 1978 to 16th December, 1979. Under this policy, a portion of sugar production (10% of the sugar production during the 2008-09 sugar season and raised to 20% for sugar season 2009-10) is requisitioned from the producers of sugar as levy sugar for distribution through ration/fair price shops in the Public Distribution System (PDS) at a uniform retail price throughout the country. The remaining portion of sugar is allowed to be sold as non-levy sugar (free-sale sugar) through the system of Regulated Release Mechanism which is applicable uniformly to all the sugar mills throughout the country.

(c) and (d) The sugar mills are required to sale and deliver the specified levy sugar quota to the Food Corporation of India/State Government or UT Administration or their nominated agencies. Sugar mills are free to sale and deliver the non-levy quota to a dealer of sugar in any State/UT across the country subject to weekly/fortnightly/monthly sale stipulation as considered appropriate by the Central Government.

Allocation of APL rice to Andhra Pradesh

939. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any request from Andhra Pradesh Government for restoration of APL rice allocation for the year 2009-10 to the level of 2007-08 aimed at ensuring uninterrupted supply of rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. under PDS;

(b) if so, the details and latest status thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in restoration of allocation requested; and

(d) the response of the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Andhra Pradesh Government requested for restoration of APL rice allocation to the level of 2007-08.

Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocations of foodgrains including rice for APL category are at present made to all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake.

Higher level of allocations of foodgrains were made to the State upto 2007-08 when there was surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Considering the present stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, it is not possible to restore allocations to 2007-08

levels. However, to augment availability of foodgrains in the State to meet its requirement under TPDS, the following normal and additional allocations have been made to the State during 2009-10.

Existing monthly allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh under APL category are as follows:—

(Qty. in tons)

Commodity	APL Allocation
Rice	131334
Wheat	2754
TOTAL	134088

Over and above these normal allocations, the following additional allocations have been made to the State:—

(i) Allocation of 2.40 lakh tons of APL rice during the period April to September, 2009 as part of incentive for higher procurement of rice.

(ii) Allocation of 17893 tons of rice and 35785 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices for drought relief from October, 2009 to March, 2010.

(iii) A special *adhoc* allocation of 125737 tons of rice and 32473 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices for January and February, 2010 @ 10 kg. per family for all accepted APL, BPL and AAY families under TPDS.

(iv) 2250 tons of wheat per month at MSP based price during the period April to June, 2009.

(v) 756 tons of Maize and 7200 tons of Jowar at Central Issue Price (CIP) during May to October, 2009.

(vi) Under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), 305506 tons of rice and 16478 tons of wheat have been allocated to the State for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010.

Price rise of essential commodities

940. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether in view of continuing rocketing of prices of essential commodities particularly food items, Government has taken a slew of measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the price rise;