

*Rates for sale of rice to State/UT Governments under open
market sale scheme (D) for the month of October upto 05.11.2009*

OMSS (D) rate for for Raw Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Common	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Common
1540.06	1495.28	1518.55	1474.43
Revised rates for sale of rice w.e.f. 06.11.2009			
Upto 12.04.2010			
1614.68	1569.91	1592.08	1547.96
Revised rates for sale of rice w.e.f. 13.04.2010			
1585.55	1540.78	1562.95	1518.13

Open Market Sale Scheme

4650. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been decided that wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme would be distributed to retail customers by State Governments through their cooperative network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether wheat and rice would be sold to traders by cooperative network or whether it would be sold to consumers directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) 20 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice were allotted under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) to States/Union Territories/NAFED/NCCF for distribution to retail consumers through their own corporations/cooperatives/federations/self-help groups or any other Government or Semi Government Organizations. Sale of wheat and rice to dealer/wholesaler/trader was not permitted under this scheme. Statements showing allocation and lifting of wheat and rice under the Scheme are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I and II appended to Answer to USQ No. 4649 Part (a) and (b)].

Audit on Public Distribution System

4651. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether C&AG has decided to carry out an audit of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to check for leakages that prevent essential commodities from reaching the actual beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the C&AG report in this regard;

(c) whether, in view of C&AG report, Government proposes to overhaul the PDS in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) conducts periodical audit of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies of the various State Governments. The C&AG submitted a report in respect of Karnataka State on a performance audit of the Public Distribution System during the year 2008-09. The C&AG, *inter-alia*, have recommended that the State Government should prescribe suitable socio-economic/income criteria to identify and cover only the eligible BPL families under the PDS and weed out ineligible beneficiaries in time-bound manner. The State Government should ensure that the departmental officers conduct inspections of wholesale godowns and fair price shops regularly as prescribed to prevent irregularities. Computerization of wholesale godowns and fair price shops should be expedited to ensure proper documentation and reporting of PDS transactions. The working of Vigilance Committees and Food Security Committees should also be made effective to ensure timely delivery of right quantity and quality of commodities to beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the States and UTs. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. To improve functioning of TPDS, State/UT Governments have been requested to:—

- (i) review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensure greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduce new technologies such as/Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels and smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.