

#### Reduction in rice allocation to Kerala

\*237. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reduced rice allocation to Kerala on the plea of less off-take by the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the present allocation to Kerala;
- (d) whether the State Government has made any representation in this regard; and
- (e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocations of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families have been maintained @ 35 kg. per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs including Kerala.

Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Due to lower availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, allocations for APL category to States/UTs including Kerala were rationalized during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 on the basis of past offtake. However, subsequently based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, additional allocations were made during 2008-09 and 2009-10 to States/UTs.

During the current year 2009-10, the total annual allocation of foodgrains under BPL including AAY category to Kerala is 5.69 lakh tons of rice and 0.84 lakh tons of wheat which was the same in 2008-09 also.

Annual allocation of rice under APL category to Kerala during 2009-10 is 4.83 lakh tons which is substantially higher as compared to the previous year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons of rice. In addition, 1.66 lakh tons of wheat have also been allocated in 2009-10 as compared to 1.61 lakh tons during 2008-09.

In addition, 51,350 tons of rice and 81,320 tons of wheat has been allocated to Kerala for distribution to retail consumers under Open Market Sale Scheme for the period October 2009 to March 2010. Further more, 92,114 tons of rice and 30,086 tons of wheat have been allocated to the State as special allocation @ 10 kg per family per month for all accepted number of families (AAY/BPL/APL) for January and February 2010.

Government of Kerala has given representations for higher allocation of foodgrains to APL families to 2006-07 levels. Additional allocations of rice and wheat under APL category have been made from time to time to the State, based on availability of food stocks in the Central Pool. It is however, not possible to make higher allocations of foodgrains to 2006-07 levels as they were made at that time due to surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and lower offtake by the States.

#### **Grants for development of fishing harbours**

**\*238.DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had any proposal to help the fishermen to protect, develop and secure fishing as a profession;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to develop fishing harbours by giving grants-in-aid; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and specifically in respect of Mookkaiyur in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has been assisting the fishery sector through the following Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes (CSS).

- (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations.
- (iii) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen.
- (iv) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector.

In addition, the Union Government has set up the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) which too provides financial support to State Governments, fishery organizations and fishermen for various activities for sustainable growth of the sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture under the CSS on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations provides financial assistance to the coastal State Governments, Union Territories, Port Trusts, Fishermen Organizations/Associations and Private Entrepreneurs for development of new fishing harbours, fish landing centres and expansion and modernization of existing ones. State-wise details of fishing harbours and fish landing centres developed under the CSS are furnished in the Statement (*See below*). Development of a fishing harbour at Mookkaiyur has been proposed under Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP).