

therefore, APL wheat for Kerala works out to be 11,777 tonnes per month and for BPL, the allocation is 7,336 tonnes per month.

(d) Because of a decline in wheat stocks in Central Pool, *viz-a-viz* the buffer norms, wheat allocation has been reduced for all the States as per policy indicated above, and it is not possible to deviate from the same for any particular State.

Maintenance of wheat stock in Central pool

1222. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) the actual stock of wheat in Central pool as on 1st July, 2002 and 1st April, 2004;

(b) the minimum buffer norm during that period;

(c) whether the buffer norm was changed in April, 2005;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) at what stage stock position, preventive steps/contingency measures are taken to maintain a safe minimum level of stock; and

(f) the chronological details of steps taken since 1st April, 2004 to maintain minimum necessary stock?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The stock of wheat *vis-a-vis* buffer norms in Central Pool as on 1st July, 2002 and 1st April, 2004 are as under:—

<i>Figures in lakh tonnes</i>		
As on	Actual Stock	Buffer Norms
1.7.2002	410.74	143.00
1.4.2004	69.31	40.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The buffer stocking policy is reviewed from time to time—normally after five years for every Five Year Plan. Buffer stocks of foodgrains to be maintained in the Central Pool are fixed taking into consideration the requirement of foodgrains during a particular quarter. While fixing these norms, factors like procurement season, lean periods, offtake in the preceding years, base level requirements, stabilization factor, etc. are taken into consideration. On the basis of recommendations of the Vth Technical Group, the minimum buffer norms for stocking of foodgrains in the Central Pool with effect from April, 2005 for the remaining 10th Plan period are as follows:—

	<i>(In lakh tonnes)</i>		
	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	40	22	162
1st July	171	98	269
1st October	110	52	162
1st January	82	118	200

(e) Stock position *vis-a-vis* buffer stocking norms are reviewed regularly and the preventive steps/contingency measures are taken to maintain the safe minimum level of stock as per the buffer norm.

(f) Keeping in view of the decline in wheat stock *vis-a-vis* the buffer norms, the Government has taken the following measures:—

- (i) Release of foodgrains from Central Pool for export was stopped.
- (ii) In order to cater to the local tastes as well as to help the farmers in production of foodgrains other than wheat and rice, a higher allocation of coarse-grains (e.g. Jowar, bajra, maize/ ragi, etc.) at highly subsidized rate is being made to various State Governments who have demanded for the same.
- (iii) To maintain adequate buffer stock, efforts have been made to step up procurement of foodgrains.
- (iv) A decision has been taken that there would be no sale of wheat under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS-D) during the year 2006-07.

- (v) Government has rationalized release of foodgrains under the SGRY and Special component of SGRY.
- (vi) a decision has been taken to import 35 lakh MTs of wheat.
- (vii) The allocation of wheat for the Above Poverty Line (APL) category has been rationalized to each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's off-take, whichever was lower.

Modified procurement policy

1223. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to adopt a modified procurement policy which seeks to provide market rates to the farmers instead of minimum support price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP has been formulated in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, to ensure that the required quantity of foodgrains are procured to meet the commitments under the TPDS and other foodgrains based Welfare Schemes.

**Setting up of district level committees of
Consumer Protection Council**

1224. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether district level committees of Consumer Protection Council have been set up in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to set up such committees in all the States of the country; and