

availability of food grains (rice, wheat, other cereals and pulses) per annum in the country during the last five years from 2006 to 2009 for which data is available is as follows:

Year	Per capita per year availability of food grains (in kg)
2006	162.5
2007	161.6
2008	159.2
2009	162.1
2010 (P)	160.1

(P) Provisional

(b) and (c) The per capita availability of food grains as indicated above compares well with the National Institute of Nutrition's normative per capita cereal requirement of 157 kilograms per annum.

(d) and (e) The Government has made a total allocation of 615.26 lakh tons of food grains during 2011-12 through the Public Distribution System. In addition to normal allocation under the targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), taking into account the surplus availability of food grains in the Central Pool, the Government has made a total additional allocation of 123.69 lakh tons of food grains for Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families including 23.69 lakh tons for 174 poorest districts in 27 States/UTs for distribution to the poorest of the poor (AAY) families is already at highly subsidized prices of Rs. 3 per kg of rice and Rs. 2 per kg of wheat.

Shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities

486. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has been facing the shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities and also increase in their prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has directed the State Governments to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains so that foodgrain crises is addressed and the prices are kept under check; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The

Country has sufficient stock of foodgrains to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System. As on 1-3-2012, 212.55 lakh tonnes of wheat and 331.78 lakh tonnes of rice was available in the Central Pool. There has also been record procurement of wheat and rice during Rabi and Kharif marketing seasons 2009-10, 2101-11 and 2011-12. Procurement of wheat and rice during the last 3 years is as follows:-

(in lakh tonnes)		
Marketing Year	Wheat	Rice
2009-10	253.82	320.34
2010-11	225.14	341.98
2011-12	283.35	276.04**

**As on 15-3-2012

Price of wheat and rice are stable in the country. A statement showing wholesale and retail wheat and rice prices during last one year is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Availability of other essential commodities like pulses, sugar and edible oil is also sufficient in the country. The prices of sugar, major pulses and edible oils are either stable or have shown only marginal increase. Prices of sugar, major pulses and edible oils during the period of last one year are given in Statement-II. (*See below*)

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No such instructions have been issued to State Governments. However, to meet the requirement of Public distribution system and to moderate the prices of foodgrains, buffer norms including strategic reserve for Central Pool wheat and rice stocks have been fixed by Government of India as follows:-

(in lakh tones)						
	Buffer norms	Buffer norms	Total	Strategic Reserve		Grand Total
	Rice	Wheat		Rice	Wheat	
1st April	122	40	162	20	30	212
1st July	98	171	269	20	30	319
1st Oct.	52	110	162	20	30	212
1st Jan	118	82	200	20	30	250

These buffer norms were fixed by Government of India *w.e.f.* April, 2005 and Strategic Norms were fixed with effect from July, 2008.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Statement-I*Wholesale and retail wheat and rice prices during 2011*

Date	Wheat Price		Rice Price	
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
	(Rs./qtl. at Delhi)	(Rs./kg at Delhi)	(Rs./qtl. at Delhi)	(Rs./kg at Delhi)
1-1-2011	1320.00	14.00	1975.00	23.00
1-2-2011	1345.00	15.50	1940.00	23.00
1-3-2011	1340.00	15.50	1950.00	23.00
1-4-2011	1240.00	15.50	1950.00	23.00
1-5-2011	1220.00	15.50	1950.00	23.00
1-6-2011	1190.00	15.00	1965.00	23.00
1-7-2011	1290.00	15.00	1975.00	23.00
1-8-2011	1200.00	15.00	1950.00	23.00
1-9-2011	1180.00	15.00	1975.00	24.00
1-10-2011	1200.00	15.00	1950.00	24.00
1-11-2011	1210.00	15.00	1950.00	24.00
1-12-2011	1245.00	15.00	1950.00	24.00
1-1-2012	1265.00	16.00	1950.00	24.00
1-2-2012	1280.00	16.00	1950.00	24.00
1-3-2012	1280.00	16.00	1950.00	24.00

(Source: Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India)

Statement-II*Prices of sugar, major pulses and edible oils during 2011***Sugar: Retail Prices (in Rs per kg)**

Centre	Prices on 02-03-2012	1 month back	3 month back	6 month back	1 year back
Delhi	34	34	36	33	33
Mumbai	33	34	34	32	31
Kolkata	34	34	35	32	32
Chennai	31	30	32	30	30

Tur Dal: Retail Prices (in Rs per kg)

Centre	Prices on 02-03-2012	1 month back	3 month back	6 month back	1 year back
Delhi	68	68	74	72	74
Mumbai	70	69	71	72	61
Kolkata	65	60	62	54	62
Chennai	64	65	65	62	72

Urad Dal: Retail Prices (in Rs per kg)

Centre	Prices on 02-03-2012	1 month back	3 month back	6 month back	1 year back
Delhi	71	71	75	76	73
Mumbai	68	67	79	79	75
Kolkata	62	60	60	58	60
Chennai	62	65	68	68	68

Vanaspati oil: Retail Prices (in Rs per kg)

Centre	Prices on 02-03-2012	1 month back	3 month back	6 month back	1 year back
Delhi	77	77	80	78	77
Mumbai	88	89	85	80	77
Kolkata	58	58	60	66	65
Chennai	79	79	77	78	75

Groundnut oil: Retail Prices (in Rs per kg)

Centre	Prices on 02-03-2012	1 month back	3 month back	6 month back	1 year back
Delhi	136	142	135	128	129
Mumbai	121	112	110	116	85
Kolkata	120	120	110	105	100
Chennai	125	123	112	100	80

(Source: Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India)

Transfer of subsidy to beneficiaries

487. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force, set up to frame on Information Technology for the direct transfer of subsidy for food and kerosene to beneficiaries, has suggested