

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4542
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH AUGUST, 2025

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF RICE TO KERALA

4542. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a request for additional allocation of rice from the central pool in view of the upcoming Onam festival;
- (b) if so, the details of the request received including the quantity of rice sought and the date on which it was received by the Union Government;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision regarding this request;
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken and the quantity of rice allocated to Kerala for Onam festival celebrations;
- (e) if not, the reasons for the delay or rejection and whether the Government would consider urgent allocation to ensure food security and festival support for the people of Kerala; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, Government of Kerala vide its letter dated 01.07.2025, received on 02.07.2025, requested for additional allocation of 5 Kg of Rice at Tide Over rate for Non NFSA (National Food Security Act) card holders in September 2025 and to relax the monthly ceiling limit regarding excess use of Tide over portion in view of Onam festival.

(c) to (f): Govt. of Kerala has been informed, vide letter dated 31.07.2025, that it may avail additional quantities of rice through OMSS (Open Market Sales Scheme) provisions or through the extant policy guidelines for additional allocation of wheat & rice on account of festivals, natural calamities and law & order situation. Accordingly, Govt. of Kerala may submit a request in this regard.

For relaxing the monthly ceiling limit in view of Onam Festival, it has already been informed that States are permitted to advance lift and distribute upto 6 months of the ration allocated under the NFSA. Therefore, Govt. of Kerala may also explore the provision of advance lifting as per its requirements in accordance with the extant guidelines.
