

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:926
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
RELATIVE PRICES OF FOODGRAINS
PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR

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

- (a) whether the prices of certain foodgrains under the PDS and that in the open market are the same;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of foodgrains under PDS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government intends to implement PDS scheme through cooperative societies formed by State Governments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S. MAHARIA)

(a),(b)&(c): No, Sir. Wheat and rice are issued from the Central Pool to State Govts./UTs at uniform Central Issue Prices (CIP) for distribution under the TPDS. In the case of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, wheat and rice are issued at highly subsidized rates, which are lower than the prevailing open market prices. The CIPs in the case of households covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) are even lower i.e. at Rs.2/- per Kg. for wheat and Rs.3/- per Kg. for rice. In the case of Above Poverty Line (APL) households, the CIPs of wheat and rice are marginally lower than the prices in most of the open marketing centers.

(d): The responsibility for distribution of foodgrains to the consumers under PDS through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rests with the State Governments. Several State Governments have already involved Cooperative Societies for distribution of foodgrains under the PDS.