

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1860
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
NORMS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT AND RICE
Panda Shri Prabodh;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to revise norms for distribution of wheat and rice through the Targeted Public Distribution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this has been done to overcome the shortfall in the wheat procurement during the Rabi season; and
- (d) if so, the other steps being taken to overcome this shortage ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): The norms of allocation of foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has not been changed. The Government has, however, decided to streamline the ratio of wheat and rice in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL and APL families on the basis of food habits of each State/UT. The ratio of wheat and rice has been revised with effect from 01.08.2005 on the basis of the following proportion or the existing allocation of wheat whichever is less.

1. 70:30 for wheat consuming States/UTs;
2. 50:50 for wheat and rice consuming States/UTs; and
3. 30:70 for rice consuming States/UTs.

(c): This has been done keeping in view the consumption pattern in various States/UTs, as well as the relative availability of rice and wheat stocks in the Central pool due to less procurement of wheat by about 20 lakh tonnes during 2005-06 as compared to procurement during 2004-05.

(d): The following measures have been taken to meet the shortage of foodgrains in the country:

(i) Ensuring adequate stocking of foodgrains in FCI depots in all regions in the country and releasing the same under the TPDS and other welfare schemes;

(ii) Monitoring of wholesale and retail prices of foodgrains; and

(iii) Release of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)].