

Title: Need for allocation of additional rice and wheat to Kerala during Onam festival.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Onam is a very important festival of Kerala. The State Government of Kerala through its Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Shri G. Karthikeyan, had requested the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the Centre, Shri Sharad Yadav to allot more raw rice and wheat to the State of Kerala.

According to the preliminary review by the State Government, Kerala is in need of 15,000 metric tonnes of raw rice. But only 9,584 metric tonnes is available with the State Government. As against the average monthly requirement of 14,000 metric tonnes of wheat, the stock in all the depots put together is only 6,580 metric tonnes. The persistent problem is that the stock of foodgrains is not apportioned in a rationale manner. In certain depots there is hardly any stock, whereas in certain other depots the stock is more than their requirement.

So, the State Government has requested the Central Government to allot 30,000 metric tonnes of raw rice and 80,000 metric tonnes of wheat from out of monthly allotment immediately.

The main problem that we are facing is the wagon shortage. Wagons should be made available for the movement of foodgrains to the State of Kerala. This is the festival season. Since Onam is a very important festival of our State, the Central Government should take urgent steps to allot more wheat and rice to our State.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I associate with him.