

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023

ALLOTMENT OF RICE TO TAMIL NADU

2625 SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether Tamil Nadu has been allocated 2.97 lakh tonnes of rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) under the National Food Security Act, but needs around an additional 50,000 tonnes per month, to meet the requirements of its 2.2 crore rice ration cardholders;
- (b) if so, steps taken by Government to bridge this gap;
- (c) the reasons for sudden scarcity of rice in the country and the steps which have been taken to rectify this problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) &(b): Allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is made on the basis of identification of beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs within the State/UT-wise coverage of population determined by the then Planning Commission and the foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act. The Act further provides that if on the above basis annual foodgrains allocation to any State/UT is lower than the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13 under erstwhile normal Targeted Public Distribution System, the same shall be protected.

The coverage of beneficiaries determined for the State of Tamil Nadu under the NFSA is 364.70 lakh persons against which the State has identified 364.12 lakh beneficiaries. Accordingly, 2,14,400.60 MT of foodgrains (2,05,824.58 MT rice and 8,576.02 MT wheat) per month are being allocated to the State Government. In addition to this 92,078.733 MT of foodgrains (rice) per month are being allocated under "tide over" to protect the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13. Thus, the State of Tamil Nadu is receiving 3,06,479.333 MT of foodgrains per month (36,77,751.996 MT of foodgrains per annum) which is as per maximum permissible limit under the Act.

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On identification of further NFSA beneficiaries within the ceiling, allocation of foodgrains is revised as per norms after examining the request of State/UT in this regard. This is a continuous process.

(c) & (d): The total stock of Rice in central pool as on 01.07.2023 is 253.49 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) against food grains stocking norms of 135.40 LMT for Rice which is adequate to meet domestic requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System and Other Welfare Schemes.
