

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1323
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2025

DEMAND FOR INCREASE IN WHEAT ALLOCATION TO TAMIL NADU
UNDER NFSA AND OMSS

1323 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that average consumption of wheat in Tamil Nadu has increased to 23,000 Metric Tonne per month due to a change in food habits;
- (b) if so, the reasons for allocating only 8,576.02 Metric Tonne of wheat to Tamil Nadu under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), despite the increased demand;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase the allocation of wheat to Tamil Nadu under NFSA or consider supplying wheat under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) to meet the growing demand; and
- (d) if so, the details of the proposed increase in allocation and the timeline for its implementation?

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

(a) to (d): 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 foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act i.e. 35 kg per household per month for households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and 5 kg per person per month for Priority households. 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 foodgrains entitlement of States/UTs is specified in Schedule-IV of the Act. As per Schedule-IV, the State of Tamil Nadu is entitled to 3677752 tons (including 1265838 tons as tide over allocation) of foodgrains per annum.

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As and when requests are received from States/UTs for revision of foodgrains allocation under the Act on account of addition of new beneficiaries, within the ceiling of beneficiaries determined for that State, the same are examined and revised allocation orders are issued as per the extant policy.

At present, 214400.60 MT of foodgrains are being allocated to the State Government which is as per provisions of the Act.

In order to ensure management of food grain stocks as per norms to position rice stock for distribution of fortified Rice and to ease the pressure on the logistics, the Government of India had revised the allocation of foodgrains in regard to 12 States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu) under NFSA/Tide Over category from June 2022 onwards. The revised allocation has been reviewed regularly in consultation with Food Corporation of India for all the 12 States (including Tamil Nadu) and it has been decided to continue the revised allocation under NFSA/Tide Over for all 12 States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu). The aforesaid criteria of revision in allocation is uniformly applicable for all 12 States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu).

As per extant Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) policy 2024-25, there is no provision for sale of Wheat to States. However, sale of wheat to private parties through e-auction has been carried out in Tamil Nadu also. Food Corporation of India has increased the offered quantity in weekly e-auction in Tamil Nadu from 3000 MT wheat offered on 04.12.2024 to 7000 MT wheat offered on 05.03.2025. Out of total offered quantity of 52,200 MT wheat in weekly auctions in Tamil Nadu, 49995 MT has been sold during the period from 04.12.2024 to 05.03.2025 to private parties.
