

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2747
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025

**RICE ALLOCATION TO REGIONS EXPERIENCING HIGHER LEVELS OF
FOOD INSECURITY OR MALNUTRITION**

2747 **DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:**
SHRI NARESH BANSAL:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) whether the revised policy on PDS will prioritize rice allocation to regions experiencing higher levels of food insecurity or malnutrition;
- (b) the manner in which the revised policy aligns with the Ministry's goal of ensuring food security, given the potential trade-off between food and fuel;
- (c) the anticipated contributions of this scheme to the country's ethanol blending targets, and the manner in which this will benefit farmers indirectly;
- (d) whether there are any provisions in this policy to encourage States to enhance their own food storage and distribution infrastructure, thereby reducing long-term dependence on central schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): In order to ensure management of food grains stocks as per norms, to position rice stock for distribution of fortified rice, to ease the pressure on the logistics and after due consultations, the Government of India, from June 2022 has revised the allocation of food grains under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Tide over categories in favour of more rice. To combat anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies, the Government of India has implemented Rice Fortification Initiative and the Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice across all schemes in the country.

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(b): The Government accords the highest priority to food security in the country. Supply of FCI rice for ethanol is permitted under OMSS (D) only after ensuring the sufficient availability of rice for the domestic market.

(c) By utilization of surplus rice, Government has diversified the sources for ethanol production in the country. Thus, usage of surplus rice for ethanol production has supported the goal of achieving the blending targets mandated under Ethanol Blending Programme. Supply of rice for ethanol production has also benefited the farmers indirectly as the demand of rice would lead to stable income to paddy farmers.

(d) and (e): Requirement of Storage capacity depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and Public Distribution System (PDS) operations for food grains (Rice and Wheat). FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level:

- i. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- ii. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
- iii. Central Sector Scheme "Storage & Godowns".
- iv. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies.
- v. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS).
- vi. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization.
