

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS TO KERALA

2727. SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has considered the request from the Government of Kerala for permitting utilizing the additional quantity of foodgrains over and above its monthly allocation rate and if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (b) whether the Union Government has examined the crisis faced by the Government of Kerala due to reduction in the quantity of foodgrains from 16 lakh tons to 14.25 lakh tons on account of implementation of Food Security Act and if so, the action taken to overcome the crisis;
- (c) whether the Union Government has examined the request of Government of Kerala for allotting tide over share and if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to give special consideration to Kerala considering the fact that Kerala is producing less than 15 per cent of food requirement and depend on the Union Government for meeting the domestic requirement; and
- (e) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

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

(a): A request from State Government of Kerala was received inter-alia to relax monthly ceiling limit of tide over distribution. The State Government was inter-alia informed that as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, any increase in the total Tide Over quota for Kerala is not permissible. It was also informed that as per the extant guidelines issued by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, States/UTs are permitted to advance lift and distribute up to six months' ration allocated under the NFSA. Therefore, the State Government of Kerala was requested to explore and utilize the provision of advance lifting as per its requirements.

(b): The allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) under the 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, as "Tide-over" allocation.

The foodgrains entitlement of States/UTs is specified in Schedule-IV of the Act. As per Schedule-IV, the State of Kerala is entitled to 1425049 tons (including 424751 tons as tide over allocation) of foodgrains per annum.

The coverage of beneficiaries determined for the State of Kerala under the NFSA is 154.80 lakh persons and the State has already identified the beneficiaries under the Act upto maximum permissible limit. Accordingly, 85459.885 MT of foodgrains per month are being allocated to the State Government at NFSA prices. In addition to this 33294.198 MT of foodgrains per month are being allocated under "tide over" to protect the average annual offtake during 2010-11 to 2012-13. Thus, the State of Kerala is receiving 118754.083 MT of foodgrains per month (1425049 MT of foodgrains per annum) which is as per provisions of the Act.

(c): The request for enhancement of allocation of foodgrains under "tide over" over and above the entitlement had been received from State Government of Kerala. The State was informed that the criteria for allocation of foodgrains is uniformly applicable for all the States/UTs, therefore, the request of a particular State for enhancement of "tide over" allocation over and above its entitlement, cannot be agreed to.

(d) & (e): No such proposal is under consideration.
