

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2778
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

EXTRA GRAIN RICE TO KERALA

2778. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a): whether it is a fact that the Union Government has not provided even a single extra grain of rice to the State of Kerala during the Onam festival despite the State Government's demand for extra allocation;
- (b): if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c): whether it is also true that the Union Government had denied additional allocation of foodgrains during Covid-19 pandemic and devastating flood in the State of Kerala;
- (d): whether it is a fact that by denying extra or additional allocation of foodgrains the Union Government was trying to weaken the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State; and
- (e): whether the Union Government was not interested in alleviating the public hardships in the Kerala State?

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

(a) & (b): Government of Kerala had requested an additional allocation of 5 kg of rice at Tide Over rates for Non-NFSA (National Food Security Act) cardholders for September 2025, for Onam festival. The State was informed that additional quantities of rice may be availed through the Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) (OMSS-D) or under the extant policy guidelines governing additional allocations of food grains on account of festivals, natural calamities, and law & order situations.

(c): To ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19 Pandemic, Government of India in March 2020 had announced the additional free-of-cost foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries at the scale of 5 Kg per person per month

under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for all States/UTs including Kerala. The State of Kerala had sought additional quantities of rice for Non-NFSA families free of cost during the COVID-19 period over & above PMGKAY. It was clarified that no provision, policy, or rule exists for allocating foodgrains free of cost or at NFSA rates to Non-NFSA beneficiaries. However, considering the hardship during the pandemic, the State was advised to lift the required quantity under OMSS (D).

Subsequently, Kerala had also requested an additional 50,000 MT of foodgrains at NFSA rates in view of floods in 2021. The State was apprised to lift food grains as per extant guidelines governing additional allocation of food grains on account of festivals, natural calamities and law & order situations, to which no further communication was received from Kerala.

Govt. of Kerala has lifted 35365 MT Wheat & 145795 MT Rice under OMSS(D) from 2020-21 to 2025-26 (till date), as per following details:

(in MTs)

Year	Wheat	Rice
2020-21	35365	51280
2021-22	0	80000
2022-23	0	0
2023-24	0	1995
2024-25	0	4394
2025-26(till 11.12.2025)	0	8126
Total	35365	145795

(d) & (e): No Sir. The Union Government has not denied the request of the Government of Kerala for additional allocation of foodgrains as stated above.

The Union Government remains fully committed to ensuring food security, extending necessary support to all States/UTs including Kerala, and addressing public hardships in accordance with the established guidelines and available resources.
