

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-818**

**ANSWERED ON-24.10.2008**

QUOTA OF FOODGRAINS TO ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS .

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(a) whether it is a fact that Government has curtailed the annual quota of rice and wheat for the APL families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 28200 metric tonnes to 17268 metric tonnes and from 8100 metric tonnes to 2964 metric tonnes respectively;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that PDS rice and wheat and Tsunami relief rice quantity has been drastically reduced; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry would take initiative to improve and increase the monthly quota of rice and wheat for APL families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as quickly as possible?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (c) : The details of monthly allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) made under the APL category to A&N Islands since June, 2006 onwards are as under: (In tons) COMMODITY (APRIL, 2006) EXISTING ALLOCATION (JUNE, 2006 ONWARDS) RICE 1439 1439 WHEAT 416 247 TOTAL 1855 1686

The allocation of foodgrains including rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made to all States/UTs for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. Allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as per this norm.

Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. Keeping in view the declining stocks position of foodgrains in the Central Pool from 2006-07, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS to States/UTs for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake figures for the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. However, there has been no curtailment/reduction of rice allocation under APL category for the UT of A&N Islands.

With a view to augment availability of foodgrains, keep rise in prices under check, keeping in view request of the UT Administration and improving availability of foodgrains, the Government has made the following adhoc additional allocations to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Adhoc additional allocation of 1,500 tons of wheat at APL rate for the period September, 2006 to March 2007, 2048 tons of wheat at APL rate during 2007-08 and 1219 tons of wheat at APL rate for the period September to December 2008. An additional allocation of 5000 tons of rice at economic cost has been made to the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands in September 2008. In order to check inflationary trends during festival season 2008), a quantity of 5,000 tons of wheat has also been released under Open Market Sale Scheme for sale to retail consumers during September and October 2008.

Thus, presently the UT of A&N Islands is being made total allocation of 2036 tons of foodgrains under TPDS for APL category per month i.e. 1439 tons rice +247 tons normal wheat +350 tons adhoc additional wheat.

The Ministry of Rural Development had sanctioned 7500 MTs of rice to A&N Islands for Tsunami relief under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) in June 2005 for creation of additional wage employment in the Tsunami affected Districts of Union Territory. This quantity has been lifted by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration. However, with implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in all Districts from April 2008, SGRY is not operational.