

Buffer Stocks

5.24 The importance of building up a buffer stock of foodgrains, normally rice and wheat, is to provide food security to the country. It is a reserve stock which can be drawn upon at the time of crop failure. And, if the stocks fall below the buffer stock norms fixed for each quarter in a year, steps are taken to augment the stocks through imports or through higher price incentives for procurement.

Minimum Buffer Stock Norms (million tonnes)

	Jan.	Apr	July	Oct.
Wheat	8.4	4.0	14.3	11.6
Rice	8.4	11.8	10.0	6.5
Total	16.8	15.8	24.3	18.1

Table 5.8 lists the actual stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool since 1994.

Beginning of the month	Wheat		Rice		Total (wheat and rice)	
	Min. norm	Actual Stock	Min. norm	Actual Stock	Min. norm	Actual Stock
January-1994	7.7	10.8	7.7	11.2	15.4	22.0
April	3.7	7.0	10.8	13.5	14.5	20.5
July	13.1	17.5	9.2	13.3	22.3	30.7
October	10.6	15.6	6.0	10.9	16.6	26.5
January-1995	7.7	12.9	7.7	17.4	15.4	30.3
April	3.7	8.7	10.8	18.1	14.5	26.8
July	13.1	19.2	9.2	16.4	22.3	35.6
October	10.6	16.9	6.0	13.0	16.6	29.9
January-1996	7.7	13.1	7.7	15.4	15.4	28.5
April	3.7	7.8	10.8	13.1	14.5	20.9
July	13.1	14.1	9.2	12.9	22.3	27.0
October	10.6	10.5	6.0	9.3	16.6	19.8
January-1997	7.7	7.1	7.7	12.9	15.4	20.0
April	3.7	3.2	10.8	13.2	14.5	16.4
July	13.1	11.4	9.2	11.0	22.3	22.4
October	10.6	8.3	6.0	7.0	16.6	15.3
January-1998(P)	7.7	6.8	7.7	11.5	15.4	18.3
April	3.7	5.1	10.8	13.1	14.5	18.2
July	13.1	16.5	9.2	12.0	22.3	28.5
October	10.6	15.2	6.0	9.0	16.6	24.2
January-1999(P)	8.4	12.7	8.4	11.7	16.8	24.4
April	4.0	9.7	11.8	12.2	15.8	21.9
July	14.3	22.5	10.0	10.6	24.3	33.1
October	11.6	20.3	6.5	7.7	18.1	28.0
January-2000(P)	8.4	17.2	8.4	14.2	16.8	31.4
April	4.0	13.2	11.8	15.7	15.8	21.7
July	14.3	27.8	10.0	14.5	24.3	42.2
October	11.6	26.9	6.5	13.2	18.1	40.1
January-2001(P)	8.4	25.0	8.4	20.7	16.8	45.7

(P) Provisional