

*Steps taken to liquidate stocks*

5.60 Foodgrain management policy requires both short-term as well as long term policy changes to meet the situation of emerging surpluses. Policy steps should be directed to resolve the problems of excess stock of foodgrains, to tackle the problem of acute shortage of storage space, to avoid the staggering carrying cost of surplus food stock and to ensure the effectiveness of the price support measures for the farmers.

5.61 Some of the immediate remedial steps already taken to reduce public stocks are:

- Open market sale at prices much below economic cost.
- Exports of foodgrains much below economic cost.
- Lowering of issue prices under TPDS for APL families
- BPL allocation increased from 20 kg per month to 25 kg per month per family.
- Special schemes as listed below.

*(a) Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana*

5.62 Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was announced by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2001. Under the programme, States

would be supplied 5 million tonnes of foodgrains annually by the Centre free of cost for undertaking work programmes. FCI will be reimbursed for this supply by the Ministry of Rural Development which is the nodal Ministry for this programme. The total allocation under SGRY upto 10.01.2002 has been 26.04 lakh tonnes of foodgrains.

*(b) Annapurna Scheme*

5.63 The Annapurna Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development commenced from 2000-01. Indigent senior citizens or persons above the age of 65 but not drawing pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme are eligible under the Scheme. 10 kilograms of foodgrains per person per month is supplied under the scheme free of cost.

*(c) Other Welfare Schemes*

5.64 Some of the other welfare schemes of the Central Government are Food for Work Programme launched in January 2001 in states/ areas affected by natural calamities, the Mid Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Scheme for Supply of Foodgrains to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Classes Hostels, Scheme for Supply of Foodgrains to Indigent Population living in Welfare Institutions etc.