

## Buffer stocks

5.43 In addition to the requirements of wheat and rice under the Targeted PDS, the Central Pool is required to have sufficient stocks in order to meet emergencies like drought/failure of crops, and undertake open market sale in case of sharp rise in market prices. The minimum buffer stock norms as well as actual stocks in the Central Pool at the beginning of the four quarters for 1996-2002 are given in Table 5.12.

5.44 In recent years however, the skewed price support policy of the Government has precipitated the problem of mounting public stocks of foodgrains much above the stipulated buffer stock norms. Central foodgrain stocks as on January 1, 2003 at 48.2 million tonnes are much above the buffer requirement of 16.8 million tonnes .

<b>Table 5.12 : Central foodgrain stocks and minimum buffer stock norms</b>							
<i>(Million Tonnes)</i>							
<b>Beginning of the month</b>	<b>Wheat</b>		<b>Rice</b>		<b>Total (wheat and rice)</b>		
	<b>Min. norm</b>	<b>Actual Stock</b>	<b>Min. norm</b>	<b>Actual Stock</b>	<b>Min. norm</b>	<b>Actual Stock</b>	
<b>January-1996</b>	7.7	13.1	7.7	15.4	<b>15.4</b>	<b>28.5</b>	
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	
<b>January-1997</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>20.0</b>	
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	
<b>January-1998(P)</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	
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	
<b>January-1999</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>24.4</b>	
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	
<b>January-2000</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>31.4</b>	
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	
<b>January-2001</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>45.7</b>	
April	4.0	21.5	11.8	23.2	15.8	44.7	
July	14.3	38.9	10.0	22.8	24.3	61.7	
October	11.6	36.8	6.5	21.5	18.1	58.3	
<b>January-2002(P)</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>58.0</b>	
April	4.0	26.0	11.8	24.9	15.8	50.9	
July	14.3	41.1	10.0	21.9	24.3	63.0	
October	11.6	35.6	6.5	15.8	18.1	51.4	
<b>January-2003 (P)</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	

(P) Provisional

Source : Department of Food and Public Distribution.