

Offtake of foodgrains from the central pool

5.50 The offtake of foodgrains from the central pool declined from 342.73 lakh tonnes during April-November 2003 to 256.73 lakh tonnes during April-November 2004, as a result of decline in exports, open market sales and off-take under welfare schemes. The offtake of foodgrains under the targeted public distribution system (TPDS) registered an increase from 154.55 lakh tonnes in April-November 2003 to 180.96 lakh tonnes in April-November 2004 due to an all round improvement in the offtake of foodgrains under the below poverty line (BPL), above poverty line (APL) and Antyodaya categories (Table 5.18). The increase in the APL offtake was particularly impressive. The recovery in the APL offtake, which started in 2003-04 with the market prices of foodgrains remaining above

the APL issue prices, continued in 2004-05. The increase in the offtake of foodgrains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was on account of expansion of the coverage of the scheme from 1.5 crore families to 2 crore families in the Budget 2004-05.

5.51 The rather sharp decline in the offtake of foodgrains on account of export was due to a deliberate policy of food management. With declining food stocks in the central pool, commitments for fresh export of foodgrains from the central pool were stopped with effect from August 2003. The decline in the open market sales also reflected the comfortable supply situation of foodgrains in different parts of the country during 2004-05. Offtake of foodgrains under the welfare schemes declined with the reduction in the need for drought related relief programmes in 2004-05.

Table 5.18 : Offtake of foodgrains from central pool (lakh tonnes)

Schemes	Foodgrains (Rice+Wheat)					April –November	
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2003-04	2004-05
TPDS of which	170.76	120.42	138.36	201.30	241.94	154.55	180.96
<i>BPL</i>	69.95	96.53	100.52	135.13	147.51	104.49	108.56
<i>APL</i>	100.82	23.65	21.06	30.78	42.17	24.03	40.75
<i>Antyodaya</i>	–	0.24	16.78	35.39	38.24	27.10	35.59
Welfare schemes	14.26	31.93	71.84	113.80	135.00	96.22	71.79
Open market sale	45.51	14.88	55.98	56.61	13.30	7.54	1.69
Export	–	20.85	63.15	124.64	101.40	83.31	9.67
Total	230.53	188.08	329.33	496.35	491.64	342.73	256.73

Source : Department of Food and Public Distribution.