

Buffer stock

5.52 The years 2001-02 and 2002-03 witnessed high levels of stock build up in the central pool (Table 5.19). The foodgrain stocks reached a peak of 64.7 million tonnes, an all time record, in June 2002. The year 2003-04 witnessed a general easing in the foodgrain stocks with the FCI, because of relatively lower procurement of rice and wheat following a bad agricultural year in 2002-03 combined with relatively high offtake of foodgrains, especially for drought related relief operations under the welfare schemes. The

steady reduction in stocks prompted the Government to stop fresh allocation of rice and wheat for export with effect from August 2003, which has continued till date. The year 2004-05 started with a much lower level of stock at 20 million tonnes on April 1, 2004 as compared to the stock level of 32.8 million tonnes on April 1, 2003. The foodgrain stocks have, however, remained consistently higher than the buffer requirement during the ten nine months of 2004-05, on account of good procurement of rice and wheat and relatively lower offtake than in the previous year.

Table 5.19 : Central foodgrains stock and minimum buffer norms

(Million Tonne)

Beginning of the month	Wheat		Rice		Total (wheat and rice)	
	Buffer norm	Actual stock	Buffer norm	Actual stock	Buffer norm	Actual stock
January-2001	8.4	25.0	8.4	20.7	16.8	45.7
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
January -2002	8.4	32.4	8.4	25.6	16.8	58.0
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
January -2003	8.4	28.8	8.4	19.4	16.8	48.2
April	4.0	15.6	11.8	17.2	15.8	32.8
July	14.3	24.2	10.0	11.0	24.3	35.2
October	11.6	18.4	6.5	5.2	18.1	23.6
January- 2004	8.4	12.7	8.4	11.7	16.8	24.4
April	4.0	6.9	11.8	13.1	15.8	20.0
July	14.3	19.1	10.0	10.8	24.3	29.9
October	11.6	14.2	6.5	6.0	18.1	20.2
January- 2005	8.4	8.9	8.4	12.8	16.8	21.7

Figures from 2002 onwards provisional.

Source : Department of Food and Public Distribution.