

II

Food management

5.46 With active food management by the Government, stocks of food grains reached a record level of 64.7 million tonnes in June 2002, with the attendant problems of high carrying costs and food subsidies. The drought of 2002-03, which in a way made the task of disposal of excess stocks somewhat easier,

kept the food managers pre-occupied with the pressing needs of the relief operations. With the stock level gradually reducing through the year, the problem of surplus stock took a back seat. With the onset of a good monsoon, the year 2003-04 set the stage for new challenges in food management. The decline in stocks continued during 2004-05; but the stocks remained consistently higher than the buffer norms.