

Buffer stock

5.59 The years 2001-02 and 2002-03 witnessed high levels of stock build-up in the central pool (Table 5.18). Foodgrains 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 foodgrains stocks with relatively lower procurement of rice and wheat following a bad agricultural year in 2002-03 and relatively high offtake of foodgrains, especially for drought-related relief operations and under the welfare schemes.

5.60 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 stock of 20 million tonnes on April 1, 2004, down from 32.8 million tonnes on April 1, 2003. Stocks, however, remained consistently higher than the buffer requirement during 2004-05 with sufficient procurement of rice and wheat and relatively lower offtake than in the previous year. On April 1, 2005, the stock at 17.40 million tonnes was above the buffer norm of 16.2 million tonnes.

5.61 The stock of foodgrains on November 1, 2006 at 18.50 million tonnes against the buffer norm of 16.2 million tonnes was sufficient to meet the requirements under TPDS, Welfare Schemes and Open Market Sales during the current financial year.

Table 5.18 : Central foodgrains stock and minimum buffer norms

(in million tonnes)

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	6.1	18.1	20.3
January-2005	8.4	8.9	8.4	12.8	16.8	21.7
April	4.0	4.0	12.2	13.3	16.2	17.4
July	17.1	14.5	9.8	10.1	26.9	24.5
October	11.0	10.3	5.2	4.8	16.2	15.1
January-2006	8.2	6.2	11.8	12.6	20.0	18.8
April	4.0	2.0	12.2	13.7	16.2	15.7
July	17.1	8.2	9.8	11.1	26.9	19.3
October	11.0	6.4	5.2	6.0	16.2	12.4
November-2006	11.0	6.0	5.2	12.5	16.2	18.5

Figures from 2002 onwards provisional.

Source : Department of Food and Public Distribution.