

**Press Release**

**FCI - THE NATIONS LIFELINE TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY**

Food Corporation of India (FCI) is playing a very important role in Tamilnadu by ensuring uninterrupted supply of food grains to meet its regular requirement under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as well as the additional allotment sanctioned to the state under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) by the Govt of India through which about 3.6 crore beneficiaries in the state receive an extra five kilos of Rice free of cost every month for the months of April to June.

For this, FCI machinery in the state of Tamilnadu has activated its staff, labourers and made transport arrangements throughout its 68 depots spread across the State covering all revenue districts, during the lockdown period. It has employed a labour force of around 5000 in its depots who are working relentlessly along with the field staff to induct and distribute the food grains promptly to the State Govt so that it reaches the needy, well in time, through the Public Distribution System.

Throughout the country, FCI has 291 Lakh metric tonnes of rice and 231 Lakh metric tonnes of wheat in its godown and more than 1300 train loads of food grains have already been sent by FCI from surplus to deficit states.

FCI South Zone Executive Director, Mr. R.D. Nazeem I.A.S. stated that from the date of lockdown, FCI has brought in about 2.6 Lakh Metric tonnes of food grains through 101 train loads into Tamilnadu from Telangana, Andhra, Orissa, Punjab and Madhya pradesh. Further, a quantity of 2.73 Lakh Metric tonnes of Rice and wheat have been lifted by the state during this period to be distributed to PDS beneficiaries through ration shops. FCI Tamilnadu has another 13.4 Lakh metric tonnes food grain available in the state meant for supply to State govt for distribution to the needy. Thus there is already a system in place to replenish the food grains regularly in the state as and when space is created, consequent upon lifting by state govt. He stated that there is enough food grains in the state and throughout the country for supplying through the PDS to meet any eventuality. He further stressed

that all employees and labourers of Food Corporation of India are adhering to the prescribed measures of health and hygiene as well as following social distancing norms at the work place.

Mr.R.D.Nazeem further stated that a new beneficiary scheme has been introduced by Govt of India for supply of food grains to charitable institutions/NGOs (engaged in relief operations by providing cooked meals for various needy people including migrant labour/vulnerable groups) at a subsidised rate of Rs.21 per kg for Wheat and Rs.22 per Kg of Rice. He appealed to NGOs to come forward and make full use of the scheme. This will give further impetus to the endeavours of the Government striving to ensure that nobody remains hungry during these tough times.

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