

No.8-10/2014-BP.III
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Food and Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 30th April, 2014

To

The Food Secretary/Food Commissioner,
Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs,
(All the States/UTs)

Subject: Requests received from States/UTs for extension of validity period for lifting of foodgrains under TPDS - reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that this Department is receiving requests from the State/UT Governments on frequent basis for extension of validity period for lifting of foodgrains under TPDS. The reasons generally cited by the State/UT Governments are non-availability of foodgrains with FCI depots, administrative reasons of the State Governments (administrative reasons are generally not specified), labour problems in FCI godowns etc. It has also been observed that in many cases, the requests are sent by the State Governments after 3-4 months. The result is that the foodgrains are not delivered to the beneficiaries in time. Further, such delayed lifting may also lead to diversion of foodgrains.

2. As per the existing instructions, the validity period for lifting of foodgrains is 50 days for each allocation month separately, starting from the first day of the month preceding the allocation month and ending on the 20th day of the allocation month. The time limit for deposit of cost of foodgrains to FCI is 15th day of each allocation month. However, in case a State/UT Government is not able to lift the foodgrains within the validity period, powers have been delegated to FCI for granting extension of validity period upto one month for lifting of foodgrains and also for deposit of cost with FCI. Beyond one month, the cases regarding extension of validity period come to the Department for consideration.

3. You may be aware that this Department makes allocation of foodgrains under TPDS well in advance for the entire year before the commencement of the financial year. In case of States/UTs which have implemented NFSA, the Department has allocated foodgrains under TPDS on monthly basis from that month onward when that State/UT has implemented NFSA and such allocation under NFSA will continue until any revised order is issued by the Department. Thus, the States/UTs have sufficient time to lift the foodgrains within the normal validity period. However, as mentioned above, States are not lifting the foodgrains in time and in many cases there is inordinate delay in lifting.

4. There may be cases of non-availability of foodgrains with FCI godowns due to rake movement problems, labour strike etc. which may hamper timely lifting of foodgrains. Other localized issues specific to the States/UTs may also hamper lifting. Keeping these in view, the State Governments have repeatedly been requested to construct intermediate storage capacities for stocking of adequate quantity of foodgrains for ensuring uninterrupted supply of foodgrains to the beneficiaries. Also, to ensure uninterrupted foodgrain distribution under TPDS, the States have been permitted to lift 6 months foodgrain stock in advance. However, despite that, the States are repeatedly sending their request for extension of validity period for lifting of foodgrains.

5. With the enactment of NFSA, right to receive foodgrains under TPDS has become legal entitlement. Hence, it is imperative that the States/UTs lift the foodgrains within the validity period and ensure its timely distribution to the targeted beneficiary.

6. Keeping the above facts/circumstances in view, it has been decided that henceforth no request from the States/UTs for extension of validity period for lifting of foodgrains under TPDS will ordinarily be entertained except in very rare and deserving cases. States/UTs are therefore advised to ensure timely lifting of the foodgrains under TPDS within the validity period.

Yours faithfully,



(Sandeep Saxena)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Copy to:

1. The CMD, FCI, New Delhi.
2. The GM (Sales), FCI, New Delhi.
3. The GMs, FCI, all Zonal Offices/Regional Offices.
4. Dir(Movt)/Dir(FCI).
5. States' files/Guard file.