

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.948
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

SALE OF RICE UNDER OMSS

**948. SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:
DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has discontinued the sale of foodgrains from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State Governments;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether this move of the Government has affected State Governments in distributing foodgrains to poor;**
- (d) if so, whether the State Governments have taken up the matter with Union Government in this regard;**
- (e) the response of Union Government thereto;**
- (f) whether the Government is considering to liquidate rice under the OMSS to private parties from the central pool stock as per requirement and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government that the prices of grain does not increase in the open market and people continue to get it at affordable rates?**

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (b): Considering expected deficiency in rainfall caused by El-Nino as speculated by India Meteorological Department due to which Kharif crop production in country may be adversely affected, and in order to control inflationary trends and to maintain adequate stock levels under central pool for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes (OWS) for the benefit of the entire population of the country, the sale of wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] for State Governments including Tamil Nadu has been discontinued with effect from 13.06.2023.

(c) to (e): State Government of Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have requested for wheat and rice under OMSS(D) Policy which was not acceded to due to discontinuation of sale of wheat and rice to States under OMSS(D) 2023.

The beneficiaries as per their entitlement under National Food Security Act (NFSA) are being provided with foodgrains free of cost till December, 2023

(f): The Government of India has decided to offload 10 LMT of rice from central pool stock under OMSS (D) 2023 to private parties in order to moderate the market prices.

(g): Government has taken various steps from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, inter-alia, include releases of wheat and rice under OMSS(D) from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of wheat stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding and restrictions on exports of the commodity.
