

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2023**

OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME

1616. DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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 is aware that many States were excluded from the Open Market Sale Scheme-Domestic (OMSS-D) by the Government and FCI, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has done a recent survey to ensure the quantity of food that needs to be distributed, State-wise;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there are any alternative procurement methods to ensure adequate and timely supply of food for the States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): Under Open Market Sale Scheme-Domestic OMSS (D), 101.5 LMT of wheat has been allocated for release into the open market upto 31.03.2024 to increase supplies and control prices. FCI has so far released 44.65LMT of wheat at a reserve price of Rs. 2150 per quintal and Rs. 2125 per quintal for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) and Under Relaxed Specification (URS) wheat, respectively, through weekly e-auction across the country.

Out of this, 4 LMT of wheat has been allocated so far, to semi-government and cooperative organisations like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandar @ Rs.21.50 per kg for conversion into atta and for sale as 'Bharat Atta' at a Maximum Retail price (MRP) not exceeding Rs. 27.50 per kg for the benefit of general consumers. These interventions in the open market have increased availability of foodgrains and moderated prices.

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Besides, Government is providing foodgrains to beneficiaries in all States/UTs as per their entitlement free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PM-GKAY) w.e.f. 1st January, 2023. Free foodgrains under PM-GKAY shall continue to be provided for further 5 years w.e.f. 01.01.2024 to beneficiaries in all States/UTs, at an estimated cost to the Union Government, of Rs.11.79 lakh crores. With a view to benefit ~ 140 crore citizens of the country, Government of India has taken the decision to maintain adequate stock in Central Pool for market intervention to control inflation and therefore, sale of wheat and rice under OMSS(D) to States only has been discontinued w.e.f. 13.06.2023. However, the sale of rice under OMSS(D) is to continue in the North-Eastern States, Hilly States and States facing law and order situation and natural calamities.

(b) to (c): Based on 68th Round of National Sample Organization (NSSO) Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2011-12), Tendulkar Poverty Estimates, (2011-12) and 2011 Population Census Data, the Central Government is providing free food grains to about 81.35 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) Households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries covering 75% of rural and 50% of urban population under PM-GKAY. A total of 607.1 Lakh Tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated for the year 2023-24.

(d): The estimates of procurement of Paddy (in terms of rice), wheat and coarse grains are finalized by Government of India in consultation with State Governments and Food Corporation of India, before the commencement of each marketing season based upon estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern.

Procurement in a State depends not only upon production but also upon other multiple factors like marketable surplus, MSP, prevailing market rate, demand and supply situation etc.
