

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.789
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

BAN ON WHEAT EXPORTS

789. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) the comprehensive strategy that has been adopted by the Government to ensure sufficient domestic availability of wheat and prevent hoarding in view of the ban on wheat exports and the imposition of stock holding limits;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints of non-compliance by entities like wholesalers, traders, processors and retailers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any corrective measures have been taken by the Government to address the issue of non-compliance and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): In order to ensure sufficient domestic availability of wheat, Government of India undertakes procurement of wheat from farmers at Minimum Support Price for distribution to over 80 crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, and Other Welfare Schemes, and also for maintaining adequate buffer as well as strategic reserves. Excess foodgrain stocks over and above the buffer and strategic reserve are offloaded through Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [(OMSS (D))] to enhance supplies in the domestic market and moderate prices. In 2023-24, 101.5 LMT of wheat has been allocated for release into the open market upto 31.03.2024 under OMSS(D).

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In order to manage overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, Government of India has imposed wheat stock limits on 12th June 2023 which is applicable to Traders/Wholesalers, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers and Processors for all States and Union Territories till 31.3.2024.

Revised Wheat Stock Limit dated 08.12.2023 is as under:

Entities	Wheat Stock Limit
Traders/Wholesalers	1000 MT
Retailers	5 MT for each Retail outlet
Big Chain Retailers	5 MT for each outlet and 1000 MT at all their depot
Processors	70% of monthly installed capacity multiplied by remaining months of 2023-24.

(b) to (d): Inspection of entities holding stocks of wheat is an ongoing and continuous process and is undertaken by the respective State/UT Governments as well by officials of the Food Corporation of India and Department of Food and Public Distribution. In case of instances of noncompliance such as non-registration on the wheat stock portal, holding stocks above the notified limit etc., States/UTs have been directed to take appropriate remedial action under the Essential Commodities Act (1955).
