

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024

BHARAT ATTA YOJANA

†704. SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:
SHRI NAYAB SINGH:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) the details of the Bharat Atta Yojana and the aims, objectives and perspectives of the Government with regard to this initiative;
- (b) whether it is true that the Government has approved fresh subsidy for Bharat Atta to keep wheat prices stable on the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether wheat flour is likely to be sold at cheaper rates than the market value under the said scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to sell Bharat Atta through PDS in view of limited stores of NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandars, etc., if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has planned to ensure adequate stock of foodgrains to fulfill overall demand of the country and to overcome the challenges faced during the distribution of foodgrains; and
- (f) 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): To moderate the prices of atta, 6 LMT of wheat @Rs.21.50/kg has been allocated for Semi-Government and cooperative organizations like Kendriya Bhandar, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) under the Open Market Sale Scheme [OMSS{D}] for converting to atta and offering it for sale to the public under 'Bharat Atta' brand at an MRP (Maximum Retail Price) not exceeding Rs.27.50/kg. The objective is to make available atta to general consumers at an affordable rate. Apart from Bharat Atta, subsidized Bharat Dal (Chana Dal) and Onion are also being sold by the Central/State co-operative agencies through physical/mobile retail outlets. 2,75,936 MT of Bharat Atta, 2,96,802 MT of Bharat Dal (Chana) and 3,04,40,547 Kg of Onion have been sold at subsidized rates to general consumers. Government has also launched retail sales of rice under 'Bharat' brand at an MRP not exceeding Rs 29/Kg for general consumers.

(b): Yes, Sir. Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India vide Order dated 16.12.2023 directed FCI to keep the effective issue price of wheat to NAFED/NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar for Bharat Atta at Rs.1715/qtl after allowing a subsidy of Rs. 435/qtl from Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) on existing reserve price of Rs. 2150/qtl.

(c): Bharat Atta is being sold at a Maximum Retail Price not exceeding Rs.27.50/Kg which is lower than the all India average retail prices of Atta.

(d): NAFED/NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar are selling Bharat Atta through their physical retail outlets and mobile vans and also through other retail chains and e-commerce platforms.

(e) to (f): As on 01.01.2024, the Stock of wheat and rice in Central Pool was 163.53 lakh MT and 181.76 lakh MT respectively which are above the buffer stocking norms.
