

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2089
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2000
BUFFER FOODSTOCK
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the basis on which Buffer stock of foodgrain have been estimated;
- (b) whether the present stock is computed on realistic assessment; and ;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) , (b) & (c) : Buffer stocks of food grains to be maintained in the central pool have been fixed taking into consideration the requirement of food grains during a particular quarter. Procurement season, lean periods, off take in preceding years and other factors are taken into consideration while fixing these norms. As per the Buffer Stocking Policy, certain minimum stocks of food grains are to be maintained by FC/State Agencies in the central pool on the first day of each quarter.

The stock of wheat and rice as on 1.10.2000 was 40.06 million tones against the prescribed buffer norms of 18.10 million tones on that date. The stock of wheat and rice as on 1.11.2000 was 44.49 million tones.

Procurement of food grains for the central pool has increased considerably during the past few years due to attractive Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government. Off take under PDS has come down due to raising of Central Issue Price (CIP) as a result of increase in MSP. CIP for Above Poverty Line (APL) families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost. These factors have resulted in surplus stocks over the minimum buffer stock norms in the Central Pool.