

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:769

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003

FOODGRAIN STOCK

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;MANSINH PATEL;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;RAMSHETH THAKUR;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

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

- (a) the foodgrains stock in the country as on date;
- (b) whether a decline has been registered in the foodgrains stock during 2003-04;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, category-wise and year-wise during the last three years including its impact on prices;
- (d) whether a certain quantity is unfit for human consumption;
- (e) if so, the value thereof including the expenditure on its maintenance on yearly basis;
- (f) the latest measures adopted to prevent damage to foodgrains; and
- (g) the steps taken/to be taken for better utilisation of surplus foodgrains?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

- (a): The stock of rice and wheat as on 1.11.2003 was 220.72 lakh tonnes (56.59 lakh tonnes rice and 164.13 lakh tonnes wheat)
- (b)&(c): The stock of rice and wheat for the last 3 years (as on 1st April) is as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year Rice Wheat

2001-02	231.91	215.04
2002-03	249.12	260.39
2003-04	171.57	156.45

The decline in Central Pool stock will not have any impact on prices as the procurement of foodgrain in Central Pool is a continuous process and availability of adequate quantity is ensured.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. As on 1st November, 2003 there was a stock of 93,294 M.Ts of damaged foodgrains with the FCI. The value thereof is Rs. 37,31,54,298 (Provisional). The expenditure on its maintenance is Rs.1258 per tonne per year on an average (Approx.).

(f): The steps taken by FCI to preserve the stocks in storage and prevent the damage in foodgrains are enclosed at Annexure I.

(g): The steps taken by the Food Corporation of India to utilize foodgrains over and above the buffer norms are enclosed Annexure II.

ANNEXURE- I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.769 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05-12 IN THE LOK SABHA

STEPS TAKEN BY FCI TO PRESERVE THE STOCKS IN STORAGE AND PREVENT THE DAMANGE IN FOODGRAINS.

- (i) Construction of its own godowns & on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.

- (ii) Provision for adequate dunnage and plinth for storage of foodgrains in open in Cover And Plinth (CAP) storage with covering of specifically fabricated low density black polythene water proof sheets with proper lashing by nylon ropes/nets.
- (iii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns by qualified and trained staff.
- (iv) Undertaking of prophylactic and curative treatments of the stocks regularly.
- (v) Undertaking the pest control measures regularly.
- (vi) Implementation of the procedure of `First in, First out` (FIFO) to the extent possible so as to avoid longer retention of stocks.
- (vii) Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means, i.e., covered wagons, etc.
- (viii) Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.
- (ix) Improvement in dunnage material.

ANNEXURE II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.769 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05-12 IN THE LOK SABHA

THE STEPS TAKEN TO UTILIZE FOODGRAINS OVER AND ABOVE THE BUFFER NORMS:

- (i) Under Targeted Public Distribution System, the scale of issue was increased from 25 Kg to 35 Kg per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2002 .
- (ii) Open Market Sale of wheat and rice, without quantitative restrictions, at prices to be determined by the existing High Level Committee of FCI, is being resorted to.
- (iii) Foodgrains under various Welfare Schemes like Mid Day Meal, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Annapurna, Welfare Institutions/SC/ST & OBC Hostel etc. are being allocated at Below Poverty Line (BPL) Prices.
- (iv) Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, wheat and rice are being allocated @ Rs. 2/- & Rs. 3/- per Kg respectively.
- (v) To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 Kg per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation to States/UTs at BPL Central Issue Prices (CIPs).
- (vi) To continue the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products without quantitative restrictions, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs.(100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time up to 31.3.2004;
- (vii) To enter into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on case to case basis up to 31.3.2004.