

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000

EXCESS STOCK OF WHEAT AND RICE

AJAY CHAKRABORTY; JAGMEET SINGH BRAR; JAYASHREE BANERJEE; SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI; SHYAMA SINGH; SUNDER LAL TIWARI; SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA; T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI; ZORA SINGH MANN

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

- (a) whether the quantum of stock of wheat and rice is in excess than the required buffer stock in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantum and type of wheat and rice available in excess till June, 2000, grade-wise;
- (c) the total quantity earmarked for Public Distribution System out of the said stock;
- (d) whether the Government have decided to auction several millions tons of wheat and rice in the country to reduce the stock;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantum of wheat and rice sold through auction so far;
- (f) whether the Government are also looking for foodgrains market in the foreign countries including SAARC countries; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIMAN SRI RAM CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The stock of rice and wheat in the central pool as on 1-7-2000 as compared with buffer stock norms is as under :-

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Stocks norms	Stock	Buffer	Excess:
Rice		144.90	100.00	44.90
Wheat		277.57	143.00	134.57
Total		422.47	243.00	179.47

The above wheat stock includes 0.71 lakh tonnes of imported wheat. The stock of rice is all indigenous.

(c) Monthly allocation of about 21 lakh tonnes food grains is made to States/Uts under Targetted Public Distribution System with effect from April, 2000.

(d) & (e) : There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) under which any buyer can purchase wheat from FCI at the rate of Rs. 900/- per quintal, subject to the condition that the indented quantity is not less than 10 tonnes. Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates :-

Month	Rate per qtl.
July, 2000	Rs.700/-per qtl
Aug., 2000	Rs.750/-per qtl
Sept., 2000	Rs.800/-per qtl

However no wheat has been sold in Punjab under this scheme so far.

(f) & (g) : Yes, Sir. To liquidate surplus wheat stocks, Government is inter-alia exploring the possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries or other countries as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. The possibilities of export of wheat have also been explored through Ministry of External Affairs. Ruling prices of wheat in Central Pool as compared to

the international prices being high, export of Indian wheat has not been commercially viable. There is no decision to export rice from Central Pool.