

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of fodgrains, including wheat, in the country is expected to be less than the target during 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this shrotfall;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import wheat to meet this shortfall; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b) : For the year 2005-06, the production target for foodgrains has been tentatively kept at 215.00 million tonnes which includes 109.92 million tonnes of Kharif production and 105.08 million tonnes of Rabi production including 75.53 million tonnes of wheat. The behavior of monsoon was erratic in the month of June, 2005 and the cumulative rainfall at the All India level from 1st June to 29th June was 20% less than the normal. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 13th July, 2005 at the All India level was 1% more than the normal . Assuming no further aberration in the monsoon, both in terms of quantity, temporal and spatial distribution, adequate availability of inputs, the kharif foodgrains target of 109.92 million tonnes would be possible to achieve.

Wheat is totally a rabi crop. At this juncture it is not possible to predict whether the target wheat production will be achieved during 2005-06.

(c) & (d) : The buffer norms stipulate that the stock of rice and wheat during 2005-06 should be as follows:

(In lakh tonnes)

Date Rice Wheat Total

1st April	122.00	40.00	162.00
1st July	98.00	171.00	269.00
1st Oct.	52.00	110.00	162.00
1st Jan.	118.00	82.00	200.00

Against these norms the total stocks of rice and wheat held by FCI and State agencies as on #30th June, 2005 was 245.25 lakh tonnes comprising 100.71 lakh tonnes rice and 144.54 lakh tonnes of wheat. Since stock position of wheat is only marginally lower than the stipulated buffer norm, there is no proposal of importing wheat as yet.

Provisional.