

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:74  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
IMPORT OF SUB-STANDARD WHEAT  
Nandy Shri Amitava;Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the retail prices of wheat and atta have increased alarmingly in the past few months and have become unaffordable for common man;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the quality of wheat imported from other countries to meet the shortage is not up to mark;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has decided to stop the distribution of sub-standard wheat; and
- (f) the further steps taken by the Government to make available good quality wheat and atta to common man at an affordable price?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): After having registered increase during the initial months of the current financial year, retail prices of wheat and atta are indicating a steady to declining trend during the last three months. The reasons for rise in wheat prices during the initial months are lower domestic production of wheat during 2005-06 and higher international prices.

(c) : The quality of wheat stocks imported from other countries is conforming to PFA standards and fit for human consumption. The imported wheat stocks received at the ports are subjected to rigorous sampling and inspections by PHO/PPQ authorities at port and analyzed at their laboratories before the acceptance of the same. Further, the stocks are also analyzed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) before the acceptance of the same as per contractual specifications as decided by the Government.

(d) : So far, no stocks have been accepted beyond PFA standards.

(e) : Does not arise.

(f) : Government have recently taken a decision to release 4 lakh MT of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Orders for release of a total quantity of 3.65 lakh MT of wheat to the various States under OMSS across the country in the month of February and March 2007 have been issued on 15.2.2007 and 20.2.2007. The wheat is being made available to the States at a price of Rs.986.06 per quintal. The remaining 35,000MT of wheat would also be released to States based on their demand/lifting. A Statement showing State-wise wheat allocated under OMSS is at Annexure. The wheat will be released by the FCI to the State Governments for distribution to consumers through the State Level Institutions/Corporations or Agencies whose work will be directly supervised by the State Government so that the benefit of lower subsidized prices can be passed on to the consumers.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 74 FOR ANSWER ON 26/02/2007 REGARDING IMPORT OF SUB-STANDARD WHEAT

STATE-WISE WHEAT ALLOCATED UNDER OMSS (D).

State	Quantity in MT
Delhi	30,000
Madhya Pradesh	20,000
Uttar Pradesh	20,000
West Bengal	20,000,
Bihar	20,000
Punjab	10,000

Haryana	10,000	
Jammu & Kashmir	15,000	
Assam	6,000	
Himachal Pradesh	5,000	
Uttrakhand	5,000	
Tripura		1,000
Mizoram		1,000
Manipur		500
Nagaland	500	
Meghalaya	500	
Arunachal Pradesh	500	
Maharashtra	60,000	
Karnataka	60,000	
Kerala		25,000
Orissa		20,000
Gujarat		20,000
Tamil Nadu	15,000	
Total	3,65,000	