

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2252

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007

IMPORT OF WHEAT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Hussain Shri Anwar; Murmu Shri Hemlal; Nayak Shri Ananta; Shivanna Shri M; Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) the production of wheat during the last three years and current year alongwith the estimated production of wheat in the country during the ensuing season;
- (b) whether the Government has finalised a proposal for import of additional quantum of wheat during the current year to increase the buffer stock;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons for wheat import despite adequate availability in the country;
- (e) whether the tender for said import has been floated;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response of exporting countries thereto; and
- (g) the steps taken to ensure availability of foodgrains including wheat in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The production of wheat in the country during the last three crop years is as follows.

(in lakh tonnes)  
Crop Year Production

2003-04	721
2004-05	686
2005-06	694
2006-07	749 (4th Advance Estimate)
2007-08	Sowing is under progress #

# Estimate of production will be released by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in January, 2008.

(b), (c) & (d): Since procurement was only 111.27 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08 as against the estimated requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of wheat for TPDS, other welfare schemes and relief work for natural calamities etc. Government has decided to import 23 lakh tonnes of wheat for Central Pool out of which orders have been placed for import of 13.06 lakh tonnes.

(e) & (f): Out of the 13.06 lakh tonnes of wheat, 5.11 lakh MTs has been contracted at a weighted average price of US \$ 325.59 per tonne C&F (FO) for import from Canada, Russia or any other country as per the sellers' choice. Another 7.95 lakh tonnes has been contracted at a weighted average price of US \$ 389.45 per tonne C&F (FO).

(g): the steps taken to ensure availability of foodgrains including wheat in the country are given in Annexure.

**ANNEXURE**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (g) OF THE UNSTARED QUESTION NO.2252 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

To increase cereals production, Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals is in operation from October 2000. Under these schemes, assistance is provided on 90:10 basis between the

Government of India and the State Governments for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, pest management, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Likewise, to increase the production of pulses, Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize` (ISOPOM) is under operation since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis by the Government of India and the State Governments.

Government of India has also initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are

(i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM), and

(ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY). NFSM has been launched in the country from 2007-08. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). This along with the Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana will improve the supply position of foodgrains including wheat.