

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:62
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
FOODGRAIN STOCKS
Raghavan Shri M. K.;Yadav Shri Sharad

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

- (a) the total stock of essential commodities including foodgrains, sugar, edible oil in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is adequate to meet the demand, including running of the Public Distribution System and other welfare/social schemes;
- (c) if not, the corrective action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the buffer stocks of these commodities is on the decline and the shortage thereof imminent;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.62 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.03.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (f): Government maintains buffer stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool. It does not maintain buffer stocks of other essential commodities including edible oil in the Central Pool. However, sugar mills may be advised to maintain a buffer stock when there is excess production, in order to stabilize prices in the domestic market.

The State-wise position of stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in Central Pool as on 31.1.2010 is at Annex I. The current level of stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool is significantly higher than the requirement under the buffer stocking norms.

Production of sugar during the current sugar season is presently estimated at about 160 lakh tons. To bridge the gap between production and demand, the Government has permitted duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar, free from levy obligation, by sugar mills, Public Sector undertakings and merchant importers as per their commercial prudence upto 31.12.2010. Further, the Central Government has enhanced the levy obligation on sugar factories from 10% to 20% of production during 2009-10 sugar season to ensure adequate supply under Public Distribution System.

In the case of edible oils, in order to bridge the gap in the availability of edible oils in the domestic market, presently imports are permitted under O.G.L. at zero duty in case of crude oil and 7.5% in case of refined oil. A scheme for allocation of imported edible oils to the State / Union Territory (UT) Governments for distribution to the ration cards holders/consumers @ one kg per ration card per month is also currently in force upto 31.10.2010.