

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3159

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

STOCK OF FOODGRAINS AND PULSES

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

- (a) whether the current stock of foodgrains and pulses in the country is in excess of the buffer stocking norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the buffer norms and the current stocks of the said commodities;
- (c) the reasons for not distributing the excess stock in view of the rising prices of these commodities; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilise these stocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Government maintains buffer stocks of wheat and rice only in the Central Pool. The stock of foodgrains vis-à-vis buffer norms as on 1.1.2010 was as under:

(lakh tons)
Buffer Norms Actual Stock Total Buffer Norms Total Actual Stock

Wheat Rice Wheat Rice

82 118 230.92 243.53 200 474.45

As on 1.3.2010, the stock in Central Pool was 183.88 lakh tons of wheat and 269.50 lakh tons of rice. Stock of pulses is not maintained in the Central Pool.

(c) and (d): The Government has allocated 276.77 lakh tons of foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category under TPDS. A quantity of 199.94 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under Above Poverty Line (APL) category during 2009-10 which is 88 lakh tons more than the allocation made during 2008-09.

In addition, the Government has made a special adhoc additional allocation of a total of 10.64 lakh tons of rice and 25.44 lakh tons of wheat at Minimum Support Price derived/based prices to States/Union Territories for two months i.e. January and February 2010 for distribution @ 10 kg of foodgrains per family per month for all accepted number of BPL, AAY and APL families to check inflationary trend in food economy.

Government has also allocated under Open Market Sale Scheme, 20 lakh tons of wheat and 10 lakh tons of rice at MSP based/derived prices plus average freight cost to various States/UTs for distribution to retail consumers during the period October 2009 to March 2010. 20.81 lakh tons of wheat have also been allocated for sale to bulk consumers during the said period.