

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:44
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current stock of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether the said stocks are adequate to meet the anticipated internal demand of foodgrains in the country including those for the welfare schemes being run by the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the anticipated demand of foodgrains in the country for the current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to lift the ban on the export of foodgrains; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of essential foodgrains and to check price rise in the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.44 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.07.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool, as on 1st June 2009 were 204.03 lakh tons of rice and 331.22 lakh tons of wheat.

At the present levels of allocations, estimated annual requirement of foodgrains is about 446 lakh tons under TPDS and about 50 lakh tons under other welfare schemes. The present stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the demand of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes at present level of allocations.

To ensure availability of food grains, production of cereal crops during last year in the country has been sufficient. With record procurement of rice and wheat, sufficient stocks are available in the central pool too.

For maintaining stability of prices of foodgrains, Government has been taking a number of fiscal and administrative measures from time to time. These include permission to import rice at zero duty upto 31.03.2009 and wheat at zero duty till further orders, ban on exports of non-basmati rice and wheat, except approval to export of 2 million tons of non-basmati rice on diplomatic grounds, exemption to two 100% Export Oriented Units to export 25,000 tons of non-basmati rice, approval to export of upto 2 millions tons of wheat from central pool on diplomatic basis and of 2 million tons of wheat and wheat products on private account, and retaining central issue prices of foodgrains under TPDS at 2000/2002 levels. Import of pulses and their allocation to States at subsidized price have been taken up.

At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to lift existing ban on export of foodgrains.