

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2688

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

TAX ON WHEAT IMPORTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is considering to impose tax on wheat imports and allowing export of certain varieties of non-basmati rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more wheat to the States under the Open Market Sale Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto?

**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) and (b) : At present, there is no proposal under consideration of Government to impose tax on wheat imports. Government has decided not to allow export of specific varieties of non-basmati rice. However export of some quantities of non-basmati rice is allowed on diplomatic basis.

(c) and (d): Since October, 2009, Government has allocated 20.65 lakh tons of wheat to States/UT Governments under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] for distribution to ration card holders. Out of earlier unlifted quantities, 65,000 tons of wheat have been re-allocated to State Government of Tamilnadu under OMSS (D) for distribution to retail consumers. 70,084 tons of wheat have also been allocated to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) for distribution to retail consumers under OMSS (D).

In addition 20.8 lakh tons of wheat have also been allocated for tender sale to bulk consumers and 5 lakh tons of wheat for sale to small processors in various States/UTs.

The tender sale of wheat for bulk consumers in all States/UTs and the period for lifting the balance quantities of wheat in all States/UTs have been extended upto 30th September 2010.

Out of OMSS allocations for retail consumers, 20 State/UT Governments have lifted 4.62 lakh tons wheat. Out of OMSS allocations for bulk consumers, 12.49 lakh tons of wheat have been sold in 23 states and UTs.