

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
SALE OF SURPLUS STOCKS
Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) the total surplus stock of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (b) whether the FCI had offered to sell the surplus stock in the open market;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of foodgrains offered and sold alongwith their reserve price;
- (d) the reasons for low sale of such foodgrains; and
- (e) the steps taken to manage the available surplus stocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY 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. 120 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.11.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

- (a) 255.58 lakh tons wheat and 231.73 lakh tons rice were available on 1.11.2010 in the Central Pool against the buffer stocking norms of 140 lakh tons of wheat and 72 lakh tons of rice for the October-December quarter.
- (b) Yes, Madam. Under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), Government has released wheat and rice for sale in open market to retail consumers through State Governments and wheat to bulk consumers and traders through FCI.
- (c) Details of allocations and offtake of wheat and rice under OMSS, including sale prices/reserve prices are given in Annex-I.
- (d) Low offtake of wheat and rice under OMSS seems to be due to higher sale prices in comparison with Central Issue prices of allocations made under TPDS and other welfare schemes, additional allocations of foodgrains made for ration card holders and more availability of foodgrains in the open market, resulting from higher levels of domestic production
- (e) To manage surplus stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool, allocations to States and UTs have been increased under TPDS. Additional allocations on adhoc basis have also been made from time to time for various categories of ration card holders.