

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
FOODGRAIN CRISIS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country has been facing the crisis of shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities and recent increase in their prices thereof;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether apprehensions have been raised regarding the food security situation by 2025;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the estimated demand and availability of foodgrains, particularly in rural areas;
- (e) the details of vision/action plan formulated to meet the future requirement of foodgrains in the country, particularly for Below Poverty Line families;
- (f) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the States to maintain buffer stocks of foodgrains so that the foodgrain crisis is addressed and the prices are kept under check in future; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a), (b) & (c) : The production of wheat and rice during the last 3 years in the country is as under:-

(Fig. in lakh tons)
Crop Year 2007-08 Crop year 2008-09 Crop Year 2009-10

Wheat	785.70	806.80	808.00
Rice	966.90	991.80	890.90

The procurement of wheat and rice has been continuously increasing since 2007 & 08 and year-wise details are as under:-

(Fig. in lakh tons)
Crop year Crop year Crop Year
2007-08 2008-09 2009-10
RMS RMS RMS
2008-09 2009-10 2010-11

Wheat	226.89	253.82	225.14
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Crop year	Crop year	Crop year			
2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	KMS	KMS	KMS
2007-08	2008-09	2009-10			

Rice 287.36 341.04 320.34

Details of wholesale prices of Wheat and Rice in Delhi are as under-
Wheat (Dara)

(Rs. per quintal)

Current date 1 Week back 1 Month back 3 Months back 6 Months back 1 Year back

11.02.11 04.02.11 11.01.11 11.11.10 11.08.10 11.02.10

1335 1340 1335 1240 1235 1430

Rice (Permal)

(Rs. per quintal)

Current date 1 Week back 1 Month back 3 Months back 6 Months back 1 Yearback

11.02.11 04.02.11 11.01.11 11.11.10 11.08.10 11.02.10

1925 1925 1975 1875 1875 1975

There are sufficient stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool to meet the requirement of TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes.

Government also releases additional stocks at subsidized prices in the open market under Open Market Sale Scheme to keep prices under control.

(d) & (e): In order to ensure sufficient availability of food grains particularly, in rural areas and for family below poverty line, the Government of India intends to enact National Food Security Act under which every eligible and identified family will be entitled to receive certain quantity of foodgrains at subsidized prices as a Right.

(f) & (g): In order to ensure sufficient foodgrains at any given point of time norms have been prescribed for maintaining buffer stocks and strategic reserve for wheat and rice for every quarter at national level. The stock position as on 1.1.2011 is as under:-

(Fig. in lakh tons)

Buffer norms including Actual stock position
strategic reserve

Wheat 112 215.40
Rice 138 255.80