

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:415

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

DECLINE IN BUFFER STOCK

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

- (a) whether a recent assessment on food stocks has indicated decline in foodgrains stocks below the buffer norms by the year 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the imminent decline in stocks;
- (c) whether the Food Corporation of India has taken adequate steps/action for creation of additional storage space and stepping up of procurement in order to maintain sufficient stocks and to meet the requirements of the proposed food security scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps proposed to be taken to maintain adequate stocks of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No such assessment has been made by this Department on the likely stock position by the year 2014.

(c) & (d): The Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). A capacity of 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States under the scheme. Out of this, tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes for the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 lakh tonnes and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC / SWCs

(e): The following steps have been taken to enhance the procurement:

(i) MSP of wheat has been enhanced to Rs 1,120/- per quintal for RMS 2011-12. Govt. also declared bonus of Rs 50/- per quintal over and above the MSP for wheat.

(ii) MSP of paddy has also been increased to Rs 1,080 for Common paddy and to Rs 1,110/- for Grade 'A' paddy for KMS 2011-12.