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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
DEMAND OF FOODGRAINS
Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding availability and demand of foodgrains including wheat and rice in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the extent of variation between them;
- (c) whether the Government has received any suggestion/recommendation for imposing ban on export of foodgrains to improve its availability; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation has informed that estimated production and projected demand of foodgrains, including wheat and rice, for the year 2010-11 is as under:-

(in million tonnes)

Crops 2010-11

Projected Demand# Estimated Production#

Rice 96.81 95.32 Wheat 75.80 85.93 Foodgrains 229.12 241.56

4th Advance Estimates released on 19.7.2011 # Working Group for 11th Five Year Plan

(c) & (d): Government has not received any request for imposing ban on export of foodgrains. However, there is ban on export of wheat and non-basmati rice from Central Pool as well as on private account. The Government has, however, allowed export of wheat products with a cap of 6.5 lakh tonnes for the year 2011-12. Recently based on the requests from various forums, Government of India has allowed export of 1.5 lakh tonnes of certain premium varieties of non-basmati rice such as 'Sona Masuri' 'Ponni Samba' and 'Matta' with an Minimum Export Price (MEP) of 850 USD per MT and another 10 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice with an MEP of 400 USD per MT on private account.