

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
RELEASE OF FOODGRAINS
Ramshankar Dr.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received suggestions to release foodgrains from its stocks, in the market to check the soaring prices in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto including the quantum of foodgrains likely to be released in the market;
- (c) the percentage of foodgrains likely to be kept as reserve/buffer stock;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the likely decline in the prices of foodgrains as a result of the above measure; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (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.292 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.8.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)& (b): In order to check inflationary trend in food economy Government of India releases rice and wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] in addition to releases made under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). During the year 2011 Government has allocated 10 Lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 Lakh tonnes of rice to States /UTs for distribution to retail consumers and 15 lakh tonnes of wheat to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for sale to bulk consumers and small traders. For the year 2011-12, In addition to annual TPDS allocation Government of India has also made adhoc additional allocations of 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line(BPL) families at BPL rates and 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families at APL rates.

Buffer norms including strategic reserve for stocks kept in Central Pool are as under-

(Quantity in Lakh tonnes)

As on Buffer norms Strategic Reserve Grand Total

Rice Wheat Total Rice Wheat

1st April	122	40	162	20	30	212
1st April	98	171	269	20	30	319
1st October	52	110	162	20	30	212
1st January	118	82	200	20	30	250

Against the Buffer norms including strategic reserve, the actual stocks of wheat and rice as on 1.4.2011 were 153.64 lakh tonnes and 288.20 lakh tonnes respectively and 371.49 lakh tonnes of wheat and 268.57 lakh tonnes of rice as on 1.7.2011.

(d)&(e) No such assessment has been made. However, the wholesale prices and retail prices of wheat and rice have not shown any substantial increase during the last one year as shown in the table:-

(In Rs. per Quintal)

Centre Wheat Rice

Price as Price as Price as Price as on 1.8.2010 on 1.8.2010 on 1.8.2011 on 1.8.2011

Delhi 1230 1185 1850 1900 Mumbai 1400 1563 1802 1775 Hyderabad 1713 1750 1700 1800 Chennai 2100 2000 1800 1900

Source: website of Consumer Affairs.

Parices of wheat and rice since 18.2010 for various parts of the country are given at annexure-I and II respectively.