

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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 also increase in their prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains so that foodgrain crisis is addressed and the prices are kept under check; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments thereto?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam. The Country has sufficient stock of foodgrains to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System. As on 1.3.2012, 212.55 lakh tonnes of wheat and 331.78 lakh tonnes of rice was available in the Central Pool. There has also been record procurement of wheat and rice during Rabi and Kharif marketing seasons 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. Procurement of wheat and rice during the last 3 years is as follows:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Marketing Year	Wheat	Rice
2009-10	253.82	320.34
2010-11	225.14	341.98
2011-12	283.35	276.04

As on 15.3.2012

Prices of wheat and rice are also stable in the country. A statement showing wholesale and retail wheat and rice prices during last one year is at Annex-I.

Availability of other essential commodities like pulses, sugar and edible oil is also sufficient in the country. The prices of sugar, major pulses and edible oils are either stable or have shown only marginal increase. Prices of sugar, major pulses and edible oils during the period of last one year are at Annex- II.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c): No, Madam. No such instructions have been issued to State Governments. However, to meet the requirement of Public distribution system and to moderate the prices of foodgrains, buffer norms including strategic reserve for Central Pool wheat and rice stocks have been fixed by Government of India as follows:-

(in lakh tonnes)

Buffer norms	Buffer norms	Total Reserve	Strategic Total	Grand Total
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	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat		
1st April	122	40	162	20	30	212
1st July	98	171	269	20	30	319
1st Oct.	52	110	162	20	30	212
1st Jan	118	82	200	20	30	250

These buffer norms were fixed by Govt. of India w.e.f. April, 2005 and Strategic Norms were fixed with effect from July, 2008.

(d): In view of (c) above, does not arise.