

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3074

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

REQUIREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether the stock of foodgrains including rice available in the Central pool is adequate to meet the requirement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes and also to control food prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the procurement, stock and demand of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the quantum and variety of foodgrains including rice imported during the said period, country-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has released additional amount of foodgrains through PDS to meet the challenges of food inflation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken to ensure adequate stock of foodgrains in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The stock of food grains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1.4.2012 was 533.02 lakh tons comprising 333.50 lakh tons of rice and 199.52 lakh tons of wheat. The current level of stock of food grains is adequate to meet the requirement of food grains as per the existing level of allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) during the current year. The procurement of rice and wheat during last three crop years (2008-09 to 2010-11) and stock of foodgrains on 1st January during the last three years and the current year are given below:

Procurement: (in lakh Tons)

Year    Rice    Wheat

2008-09    341.04    253.82

2009-10    320.34    225.14

2010-11    341.98    283.35

Stock : (in lakh tons)

Year    Rice    Wheat    Total

1st January, 2009    175.76    182.12    357.88

1st January, 2010    243.53    230.92    474.45

1st January, 2011 255.80 215.40 471.20

1st January, 2012 297.18 256.76 553.94

The surplus stock available in the Central Pool could also be used for keeping foodgrains prices under control.

Under the TPDS, allocations of foodgrains are made to States/Union Territories(UT) @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made depending upon the availability of stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake. The present level of allocations to APL families is between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/ UTs. The allocation of foodgrains are also made for Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid day meal scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme under ICDS, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (Sabla), etc. on the basis of assessed requirements under these schemes. On the above basis, the demand of food grains for TPDS and OWS during 2012-13 is estimated at around 554 lakh tons.

(c) : Due to comfortable stock position in the Central Pool stocks, there has been no import of foodgrains i.e. wheat and non-basmati rice for the Central Pool requirements during the last three years.

(d) & (e): During the year 2011-12, the Government has released additional quantity of 123.69 lakh tons of foodgrains including 50 lakh tons for BPL families, 50 lakh tons for APL families and 23.69 lakh tons of foodgrains for BPL and AAY families for distribution in 174 poorest/backward districts of 27 States. During the current year 2012-13, the Government has released an additional quantity of 61.73 lakh tons for APL families.

(f): The Government has intensified procurement operations through greater involvement of State Governments in the procurement process under the Decentralised Procurement (DCP) scheme. Greater focus on procurement in non-traditional States, particularly in the eastern region, has contributed to higher procurements for the Central pool ensuring comfortable stock position.