

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3167

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

FOOD POLICY

Jagannath Dr. M.;Mcleod Smt. Ingrid;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

(a) whether casual and short term food policy adopted by the Government has been instrumental in the shortage and rise in the prices of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has framed/ proposes to frame a long term food policy particularly with regard to export and import of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan formulated to increase availability and control import and prices of foodgrains during the XIIth Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): No madam. The Government has sufficient stock of foodgrains to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System. As on 01.04.2012, 191.52 lakh tonnes of wheat and 333.50 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 three years is as follows:-

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)  
Marketing Year    Wheat    Rice

2009-10    253.82    320.34

2010-11    225.14    341.98

2011-12    283.35    302.29#

# As on 19.4.2012

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

(c): There is no proposal to frame a long term food policy with regard to export and import of foodgrains. However, keeping in view sufficient availability of wheat and rice, Government has allowed export of non basmati rice and wheat on private account under Open General License (OGL). Import of wheat at zero duty and import of rice with duty is also allowed by the Government.

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