

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:651

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

FOOD STOCKS

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

(a) whether the Government has adequate stocks of essential commodities including foodgrains, pulses, edible oil and sugar to meet the domestic demand and the crisis of increasing food prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the demand and stock of foodgrains in the country during the last two years and the current year alongwith the estimated stock and demand after the ensuing procurement season, grain-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the other measures adopted by the Union Government to maintain sufficient stocks and to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains at affordable prices to the consumers?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 651 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.05.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (c) : The stock of food grains – rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st May 2012 was 711.17 lakh M.Tons which is quite adequate to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System during 2011-12.

There is sufficient availability of edible oils in the country to meet about half of the domestic demand and the balance in demand is met through imports. Current stocks of edible oils as on 1st April 2012 at various ports is estimated at 7.65 lakh tons and about 6.80 lakh tons are in the pipelines.

Adequate stock of sugar is available in the country to meet the domestic demand during the current sugar season 2011-12 (October –September). Prices of sugar are stable in the domestic market at present. It has been the endeavour of the Government to make adequate sugar available at reasonable price in the domestic market through the policy of regulated release mechanism. Sugar production and domestic demand during the last two sugar seasons are as under:

Sugar season Production Estimated demand/
(oct-Sep) (Lakh tons) releases for
domestic consumption

2009-10 188 212

2010-11 (prov) 243.50 208

2011-12 (est) 251.97 220

The estimated production of pulses as per third advance estimates for 2011-12 is 170.20 lakh tons. Demand of pulses during 2011-12 is estimated at 199.10 lakh tons. The gap is met through import of pulses.

The allocation of rice and wheat made from Central Pool stocks under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare schemes (OWS) during 2010-11 and 2011-12 are 520.90 lakh tons and 538.21 lakh tons respectively. In addition, based on demand further allocation of 162.15 lakh tons and 99.84 lakh tons of food grains was also allocated during the two years. During 2012-13 also, allocation of 527.58 lakh tons of food grains have been made under TPDS and OWS so far. Also, 15.50 lakh tons of additional allocation have been made during the year so far. The stock of food grains – rice and wheat – in the Central Pool as on 1st April of last two years and the current year is at Annex-I. The stock of rice, after taking into account the likely offtake, as on 1st October

2012 is estimated to be 233.41 lakh tons and that of wheat as on 1st April 2013 to be 247.20 lakh tons. Estimates of State-wise stocks of rice and wheat are not maintained.

Government has initiated several measures to contain price rise in essential commodities. These include (i) reduction in import duties to zero – for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and to 7.5% for refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils (ii) extension of the period for duty-free import of white and raw sugar upto to 30.6.2012 (iii) imposition of stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds, etc. (iv) extension of the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs.10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month and subsidized imported edible oils with subsidy of Rs.15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month and (v) ban on export of edible oils except coconut oil, branded oils in small consumer packs within quantitative limits and forest based oil and pulses except Kabuli channa and organic pulses upto a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum.