

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:557  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012  
FOODGRAINS SALE UNDER OMSS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the quantity of wheat and rice available as on 01 March, 2012 against the buffer stock norms for January-March Quarter;
- (b) whether in view of the excess wheat and rice in the Central pool against the buffer stock, the Government had released wheat and rice under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) for retail consumers through the State Governments;
- (c) if so, whether the offtake by the States under the said scheme has been low;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has made sufficient arrangements for the new arrivals of wheat during the coming rabi season in the wake of sufficient stock in the Central pool; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to utilise the surplus foodgrains to make room for new arrivals?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 557 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.05.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (f): The stock position of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1.3.2012 was 544.33 lakh tons comprising of 331.78 lakh tons of Rice and 212.55 lakh tons of Wheat, against the buffer stock norms for January-March quarter which was 250 lakh tons comprising of 138 lakh tons of Rice and 112 lakh tons of Wheat.

During the period from October, 2011 to March, 2012, Government allocated a quantity of 6.75 lakh tons of wheat and 6.785 lakh tons of rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to States/ Union Territories (UTs) for sale to retail consumers against which the States/ UTs have lifted only 8% and 2% respectively upto March, 2012. Statewise allocation and offtake details are at Annex-I. A quantity of 2.25 lakh tons each for wheat and rice have also been allocated under OMSS (Retail) to States/UTs for the period April to September, 2012, the allocation details (Statewise) of which are at Annex-II. The poor lifting against the allocation under OMSS for retail sale may be attributed to the fact that the Government has been releasing a substantial additional quantity of foodgrains through TPDS for Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families at BPL, AAY and APL prices respectively which are lower than the prices under OMSS.

The total storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies for storage of food grains as on 31st March 2012 was 627 lakh tons. However, because of the record production and procurement of wheat during the current Rabi season, the FCI have issued instructions and given full powers to the Executive Directors of Zones and General Managers of Regions for hiring of godowns for short term uses wherever required to store the food grains procured for Central Pool. The State agencies have also been making sufficient arrangements for fresh arrivals of wheat during current Rabi season.

Further more, the Government has also made an allocation of 543 lakh tons of rice and wheat during 2012-13 so far under TPDS, etc. including 75.40 lakh tons of additional allocations made to APL families in States/UTs and for poorest districts in 12 States which will also help in making the storage space available for fresh arrivals. To ease the pressure on the Central Pool stocks, State Governments have been asked to increase the offtake of food grains allocated to them, in various conferences and meetings held with them.