

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:755
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
REVIEW OF FOOD MANAGEMENT
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) whether any review of the food management in the country has been made in the wake of deficient monsoon during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the prevailing drought conditions in various States was considered during the said review; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to ensure adequate availability of food stock in the country despite deficient monsoon and drought situation?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Government has been closely monitoring the monsoon situation in close co-ordination with the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the State Governments to ensure timely availability of basic inputs like fertilizers, seeds, etc. Ministry of Agriculture has prepared District Contingency Plans for 320 Districts. States have been advised to prepare location specific alternatives based on these Plans in consultation with respective State Agricultural Universities and arrange seeds of alternate crops/varieties to implement such plans. Arrangement for adequate availability of seeds has been made to meet the requirements of these contingency plans.

A Diesel Subsidy Scheme to save the standing crops to mitigate the hardships of farmers especially that of small and marginal farmers has also been approved.

A meeting of State Food Secretaries was called on 1.8.2012 to review the procurement arrangements for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2012-13. As per estimates given by Food Secretaries of various States, rice procurement during KMS 2012-13 is estimated to be 401.31 lakh tonnes compared to the estimate of 353.15 lakh tonnes for KMS 2011-12. Therefore, it appears that procurement of rice for Central Pool is not likely to be affected from the prevailing monsoon position. During KMS 2011-12, 347.40 lakh tonnes of rice has already been procured upto 8.8.2012. In addition, a record quantity of 381.48 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13, compared to 283.35 lakh tonnes of wheat during RMS 2011-12. Due to record procurement of wheat and rice, Central Pool stock position is comfortable and as on 1.8.2012, 285.03 lakh tonnes of rice and 475.26 lakh tonnes of wheat was available in the Central Pool against the buffer and strategic reserve norm(for 1st July, 2012) of 118 lakh tonnes of rice and 201 lakh tonnes of wheat. Stocks available in Central pool are more than sufficient to meet the requirement of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other schemes.