

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:915
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
BUFFER STOCK
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains stored as buffer stock in the country at present, grainwise;
- (b) whether there have been substantial variations in the quantum of foodgrains in the buffer stock during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has evolved any perspective plan for buffer stock management for the next two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The minimum stock of foodgrains required to be maintained under the buffer stock norms for foodgrains and the actual stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool for each quarter of the current year and last three years is at Annex. The increase in stock of rice and wheat over the buffer norms during the last three years and the current year on account of higher procurement is due to increased production of foodgrains, deeper penetration in procurement and increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) among others.

Considering the increased procurement of foodgrains Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, capacity of about 181.08 lakh tons is to be created in 19 States through private entrepreneurs and CWC and SWCs. In the 12th Five Year Plan, an allocation of 568.17 crore has been made to Food Corporation of India for construction of storage godowns in North-Eastern (NE) region. This is likely to result in the construction of about 5.4 lakh tons capacity. To tide over the problem of shortage of storage space, FCI also hires storage space from CWC/SWCs/Government agencies and private parties, etc.