

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2642  
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012  
SALE OF SURPLUS FOODGRAINS  
Gulshan Smt. Paramjit Kaur

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

- (a) the quantity of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) against the buffer stock norms during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether in view of the excess wheat and rice in the Central pool against the buffer stock, the Government had offered to sell wheat and rice under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) for retail consumers;
- (c) if so, whether the off take by the States under the said scheme has been low; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the quantum offered and sold along with their reserve price, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a): The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.8.2012 was 285.03 lakh tons and 475.26 lakh tons as against the buffer norms of 118 lakh tons of rice and 201 lakh tons of wheat respectively for July-September quarter. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis a vis minimum buffer norms for the last three years is at Annex-I.

(b) to (d): During the period from October, 2011 to September, 2012 Government allocated 9.2 lakh tons of wheat and 9.265 lakh tons of rice under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) for retail consumers against which the lifting is 10.24% and 1.76% respectively upto July, 2012. 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 Targeted Public Distribution System (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. Statewise allocation and offtake details are at Annex-II. Reserve price for OMSS (retail) is as given below:

Period	Wheat	Rice
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October, 2011-	Minimum Support Price (MSP)	MSP + bonus derived cost for Kharif
March, 2012	of wheat for Rabi Marketing	Marketing Season (KMS) 2010-11
	Season (RMS) 2011-12+bonus	

March, 2012-	MSP of wheat for Rabi Marketing	MSP + bonus derived cost for Kharif
September, 2012	Season (RMS) 2011-12+bonus	Marketing Season (KMS) 2010-11