

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2664
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
SURPLUS STOCKS
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether foodgrains stocks are being held in excess of the buffer and strategic reserve norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status of stocks of foodgrains lying in the country against the buffer stock and strategic reserve norms;
- (c) the cost for maintenance of strategic reserve and buffer stock along with the benefits derived therefrom during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the cost of carrying additional stocks in addition to the buffer and strategic reserve for the said period along with the benefits derived therefrom?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.8.2012 was 760.29 lakh tons as against the buffer norms of 319 lakh tons (includes 20 lakh tons of rice and 30 lakh tons of wheat as Strategic reserve) 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.

(c) & (d): The cost of maintenance of surplus stocks by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years are as follows:-

Year Buffer carrying cost
(Rate in Rs./Qtl)

2009-10 405.14

2010-11 408.42

2011-12 (RE) 483.88

So far as benefits derived from additional stocks are concerned, the Government of India has utilized the additional stocks for making additional allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for supplying additional foodgrains to the beneficiaries. Further allocation have also been made under Open Market Sales Schemes (Domestic) in order to make sufficient availability of foodgrains in the open market at competitive prices.