

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3717
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
WHEAT FOR MILLERS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether even after record production and procurement of wheat, millers especially in southern States are finding it hard to source wheat;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this shortage is due to private traders going ahead with exports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make wheat available to millers immediately?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Foodgrains including wheat procured under Minimum Support Price Operations are utilized for the Public Distribution System (PDS). During the Crop Year 2011-12, the total production of wheat in the country was 939.03 lakh tonnes, while procurement by Government Agencies was 381.48 lakh tonnes. The wheat millers are to source their wheat supplies by buying it at the time of harvest or from the open market thereafter. However, due to comfortable level of stocks in the Central Pool and to increase the availability of wheat in the open market, the Government decided to release 30 lakh tonnes of wheat plus 3.02 lakh tonnes from previous OMSS balance for sale to bulk consumers and traders for open market sale from July 2012 onwards.

(c) No, madam. Of the total production of wheat in the country of 939.03 lakh tonnes during Crop Year 2011-12, the quantity of wheat exports under Open General Licence (OGL) between the period 9.9.2011 to 28.8.2012 is 25.3 lakh tonnes only.

(d) With the view to offload surplus stocks in the Central Pool and to increase availability in the open market, Government has so far released 26.02 lakh tonnes of wheat for tender sale to bulk consumers and traders by Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) during the period from July, 2012 to August, 2012.