

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

SURPLUS STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether surplus stock of foodgrains, in excess of the buffer norms, is available in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other Government agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the buffer norms and actual stocks during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether these surplus stocks are putting an additional economic burden on the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for holding excess stocks despite rising costs;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes in view of these surplus stocks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken to liquidate these stocks?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1st February, 2013 was 661.93 lakh tons as against the buffer norms of 250 lakh tons for January-March quarter. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis a vis minimum buffer norms for the last three years and current year is at Annex.

(c) to (f) During 2011-12 the cost of maintenance of stocks was Rs. 426.42/Quintal/annum. Government has been releasing foodgrains for the Central Pool from time to time to meet obligations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and for calamity relief etc. During 2012-13 Government has released 627.67 lakh tons of foodgrains for the purpose so far. Government has also allocated 95 lakh tons of wheat for tender sale to bulk consumers/private traders under Open Market Sales Schemes (OMSS). Further, 10 lakh tons of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has been allocated under OMSS retail scheme for sale through States/Union Territories/Cooperatives. Government has also approved export of 45 lakh tons of wheat for export during the current year. There is no proposal to increase allocation under TPDS and OWS at present.