

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:310  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
RELEASE OF FOODGRAINS IN OPEN MARKET  
Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government had released sugar and foodgrains in the open market to contain price fluctuations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of the said commodities released during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to release the surplus stocks held in Government godowns in the open market to check prices during the ensuing year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the total stocks, surplus stocks and the quantum of foodgrains proposed to be released in the open market?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 310 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (d): The Central Government, under the regulated release mechanism, makes judicious release of non-levy sugar in the country for sale in the domestic market on monthly/quarterly basis. The releases of non-levy sugar are not made State-wise and the sugar mills can sell their non-levy quota in any part of the country as per their commercial prudence. Wheat and rice are released by Government to bulk and retail consumers under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to moderate their prices in the open market and to offload surplus stocks of foodgrains available in the central pool. Details of sugar and foodgrains released by Government during last three years and current year are at Annexure – I to V.

Under OMSS, starting from July 2012, Government has already made an allocation of 100 lakh tonnes of wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of rice for sale to bulk consumers/traders and retail consumers for period upto March 2013.

271.03 lakh tonnes of wheat and 357.69 lakh tonnes of rice was available as on 1.3.2013, in the central pool against the prescribed buffer and strategic reserve norm of 112 lakh tonnes of wheat and 138 lakh tonnes of rice for first quarter of every year.

For ensuing year, decision to release wheat and rice under OMSS will be taken at appropriate time, once the wheat procurement is over.