

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3071

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) the details of the buffer stock of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year, commodity-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a decline in the present buffer stock vis-a-vis the last year's buffer stock;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any scheme has been formulated to increase the procurement of foodgrains to augment the buffer stocks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to meet the shortage of foodgrains?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c): The stock position of wheat and rice vis-à-vis buffer norms since 1.4.2006 is as under:-

(in lakh tons)  
As on Actual stock Buffer norms Actual stock Buffer norms  
of Wheat of Rice

1.4.2006	20.09	40	136.75	122
1.7.2006	82.07	171	111.43	98
1.10.2006	64.12	110	59.70	52
1.1.2007	54.28	82	119.77	118
1.4.2007	47.03	40	131.72	122
1.7.2007	129.26	171	109.77	98
1.10.2007	101.21	110	54.89	52
1.1.2008	77.12	82	114.75	118
1.4.2008	58.03	40	138.35	122
1.7.2008	249.12	171	112.49	98
1.10.2008	220.25	110	78.63	52
1.1.2009	182.12	82	175.76	118
1.4.2009	134.29	40	216.04	122
1.7.2009	329.22	171	196.16	98
1.10.2009	284.57	110	153.49	52

There is no decline in the stock of wheat and rice during the current year. On the other hand, as can be seen from the above, the stocks during the current year are higher than those during the corresponding period last year.

(d)&(e): The following steps have been taken by the Government to maximize procurement of wheat and rice for the Central Pool and augment their availability in the country:

Wheat

- (i) Wheat export on private account has been banned from 9.2.2007 till further orders.
- (ii) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted till further orders.
- (iii) MSP of wheat during RMS 2010-11 has been further increased to Rs. 1100 per quintal.
- (iv) Allocation of 10 lakh tons of wheat was made to State/UT Governments under OMSS (Domestic) from September, 2009 to

December, 2009 to check inflationary trends in food economy. 5 lakh tons of wheat have also been allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from September, 2009 to December, 2009.

#### Rice

- (i) In KMS 2009-10, MSP of Rs.950/- and Rs.980/- per quintal has been fixed for Common and Grade 'A' varieties of paddy. The Government has also allowed a bonus of Rs.50/- per quintal on both varieties of paddy during KMS 2009-10.
- (ii) State Governments have been requested to maximize the procurement of rice by opening sufficient number of procurement centres and by making other necessary arrangements for the procurement of paddy and its milling.
- (iii) State Governments have also been requested to enforce a minimum levy of 50% on rice millers.
- (iv) Commission to societies and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for KMS 2009-10 has been fixed at 2.5% of MSP.
- (v) Export of non-basmati rice has been banned w.e.f. 1.4.2008.
- (vi) Export of Basmati Rice has been restricted at Minimum Export price (MEP) of US\$ 900 per MT.
- (vii) Import of rice at zero duty has been permitted.
- (viii) To have an assessment of major rice purchases by private trade, a notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or individuals) Order, 2009 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 11.11.2009.