

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5734

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

SURPLUS STOCKS OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether the surplus stocks over and above the normal requirement, buffer norms and strategic reserves have been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the annual requirement, buffer norms, strategic reserves and actual/surplus stocks during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the surplus stocks have led to the rising prices/inflation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilise these surplus stocks to check prices and losses due to damage?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.4.2013 was 596.75 lakh tons as against the buffer norms of 212 lakh tons (including strategic reserves of 20 lakh tons of rice and 30 lakh tons of wheat) for April-June quarter. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-à-vis minimum buffer norms and the surplus stock for the last three years and the current year are at Annex.

(c) to (e): The additional stocks of foodgrains over and above the buffer norms per se, have not caused price rise/ inflation. To check rising prices of foodgrains and to stop the losses due to damage of foodgrains, 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 (OMSS) (Domestic) in order to make sufficient availability of foodgrains in the open market at competitive prices.

During the current year 2013-14, Government of India has so far released a quantity of 463.95 lakh tons under TPDS and OWS. Further, additional allocation of approximately 61 lakh tons of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families and 50 lakh tons of additional allocation of foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in States/ Union Territories (UTs) has also been proposed. Government has also allocated 10 lakh tons of foodgrains under OMSS retail Scheme during November, 2012- March, 2013 and 95 lakh tons of wheat under OMSS Tender Sale to Bulk consumers & Small Traders during July, 2012- March, 2013.