

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3916

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

STOCK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

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

- (a) the buffer norms and total stock of essential commodities including foodgrains, sugar, edible oil in the country as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the stocks are adequate to meet the demand for the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes and to control their prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective action taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the buffer stock of these commodities is declining and there is an apprehension of shortage of these commodities in the near future;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2014 was 411.38 lakh tons as against the buffer norms of 250 lakh tons for January-March quarter. State-wise stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2014 is at Annex, However, State-wise buffer norms is not maintained. The current stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are adequate to meet the requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and to control prices in the open market.

The carry over stock of sugar is 91 lakh tons and estimated sugar production is 241 lakh tons during the current sugar season 2013-14. The availability of sugar would be sufficient to meet the provisionally estimated domestic requirement of 235 lakh tons. The State-wise availability of sugar stocks is not maintained.

Edible oil is not in the list of Central Pool for Public Distribution System and the concept of buffer norms is not applicable to edible oils.