

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3676

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Stock of Foodgrains

Chaudhary Shri P.P.;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Mahto Dr. Banshilal;Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad;Nishad Shri Ajay

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

(a) the total production, demand, buffer stock and import of foodgrains, pulses, edible oil and oilseeds during each of the last three years and the current year along with the expenditure incurred on the said imports;

(b) whether the present stocks are adequate to meet the requirement in the country, including distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) of various items distributed under PDS and OWS during the current year and estimated requirement for the ensuing year and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) the number of persons benefited under the said schemes and the subsidy provided during the said period; and

(d) whether there have been reports of damage to buffer stocks held in godowns, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) The production and import of foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds and edible oils during the last three years to meet the demand and requirement in the country are at Annex I. The buffer stock of foodgrains is maintained for the Central Pool keeping in view the requirements under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), the details of which during the last three years are at Annex II.

..2/-

..2...

The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.8.2015 was 520.75 lakh tons as against the foodgrain stocking norms of 411.20 lakh tons for the Central Pool for July-September quarter which is adequate to meet the requirement under TPDS and OWS as per the existing level of allocation.

(c) Based on reports received from the States/UTs, the number of ration card beneficiaries (as on 31.12.2014) under TPDS were 19.92 crore. For the year 2014-15, Government released a total subsidy of Rs.113171.16 crore.

(d) In spite of all precautionary measures taken, some quantity of foodgrains during storage may get damaged! non-issuable due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. In order to prevent damage of the foodgrains, precautionary and remedial steps are mandated to be followed by FCI and State Government agencies for proper upkeep and quality of foodgrains in the Central Pool such as godowns are to be constructed as per specifications, foodgrains are required to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices, prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests, effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used, foodgrains in "Cover and Plinth" (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material, regular periodic inspections of the stocks!godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers, etc.
