

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
SHORTAGE IN WHEAT PRODUCTION .

1123

Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani

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

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(a) whether the production of wheat is falling alarmingly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government to meet the shortage and to check the rise in price of wheat vis-a-vis black-marketing?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): No, Sir. The production of wheat during the past three years and the current year has been as under:

(in Million Tonnes) Crop Year Production 2007-08 78.57 2008-09 80.68 2009-10 80.80 2010-11 81.47 (as per 2nd Advance Estimate of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation released on 9.2.2011)

(b); Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the availability of wheat in the country as well as to check the rise in prices include ban on export of wheat on private account since 9.2.2007 onwards, permitting import of wheat on private account at zero duty, non revision of Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat since 1.7.2002, allocation of additional quantities from time to time and release of additional stocks under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS). Further, State Govts. have been vested with powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to prevent hoarding and blackmarketing of foodgrains.