

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1025
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY 2023

REDUCTION OF FOOD STOCKS

1025 SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the situation with regard to food stocks available and the estimated Kharif crop, where reduced water availability has impacted sowing;
- (b) the reason for reducing food stocks under Open Market Sales Scheme so drastically that some states are unable to purchase grains for free distribution;
- (c) whether Government has assumed that some 81 crore persons would be receiving wheat and rice under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Antodaya and other schemes and the requirement versus availability situation;
- (d) whether the situation is likely to improve; and
- (e) whether bans and controls on exports of food items will continue?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The total stock of Rice and Wheat available in central pool as on 01.07.2023 is 253.49 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) and 301.45 Lakh LMT respectively against food grains stocking norms of 135.40 Lakh LMT for Rice and 275.80 Lakh LMT for Wheat which is adequate to meet our domestic requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

(b): Government of India has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] to all State Governments w.e.f. 13th June, 2023, barring northeast, hilly states and those facing law and order situations and natural calamities. Keeping in view the benefit of entire population of the country, Government of India has taken this decision to maintain adequate stock in Central Pool for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes (OWS) amid concerns over monsoon due to expected deficiency in rainfall caused by El-Nino which will adversely affect Kharif crop production in country, control inflationary trends and the ongoing geopolitical situation. Also, it was decided to offer rice under OMSS (D) to retail buyers for controlling the price rise in the market and thereby controlling the food inflation. However, Government is providing foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries as per their entitlement free of cost as committed under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PM-GKAY) w.e.f. 1st January, 2023.

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(c) & (d): NFSA, 2013 provides for coverage of about 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (67% of the total population of the country) for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under TPDS, which at Census 2011 comes to about 81.35 crore. The total stock of foodgrains available in central pool is adequate to meet our domestic requirement under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes OWS.

(e): The Government prioritizes food security as enshrined under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and hence provides all means to ensure adequate stock of foodgrains in Central Pool to ensure sufficient availability of foodgrains and control prices in domestic market for the benefit of around 140 crores citizens of the country.
