

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY 2023

SURPLUS RICE AND WHEAT

1029 SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

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

- (a) the total quantity of rice and wheat available or surplus in the central pool maintained by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any plans to utilize or dispose of such surplus foodgrains for any purpose other than selling them to States through the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic);
- (c) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to ensure the equitable availability of food grains to all States and prevent discrimination in the implementation of welfare schemes?

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.

(b)& (c): After meeting the annual allocation of foodgrain for 2023-24 under National Food Security Act (NFSA/ Pradhan Mantri GaribKalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), Other Welfare Schemes and additional allocation for natural calamities, festivals etc., Government of India avails the available options of disposal of the stock of foodgrain in the Central Pool through Open Market Sale Schemeetc.. The humanitarian assistance/aid, fully in grant form, to the deserving countries, is also allowed only through Ministry of External Affairs.

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(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 coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Actual requirement of foodgrains keeps on changing based on addition/deletion of ration cards due to various reasons, as reported by States/UTs from time to time.

Section 9 of the Act provides that the percentage coverage under the TPDS in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in such rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. Government of India ensures availability of foodgrains under TPDS & OWS to all States/UTs as per the allocation made in accordance with the extant provisions of NFSA, 2013. The criteria of allocation is applicable uniformly for all States/UTs without any discrimination. The responsibility for identification of eligible beneficiaries under NFSA lies with the respective State/UT. All States/UTs have been advised to identify the eligible beneficiaries under NFSA upto their respective coverage limit.
