

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.719
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023

DISCONTINUATION OF OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME (DOMESTIC)

719. DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of the discontinuation of Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) on the implementation of welfare schemes run by States, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to overcome or mitigate such impact and ensure adequate supply of rice and wheat to the States at reasonable prices; and
- (c) the number of representations or requests received from State Governments for restoring or continuing the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic), the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) : The Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] has not been discontinued.

Under OMSS (D), 101.5 LMT of wheat has been allocated for release into the open market upto 31.03.2024 to increase supplies and control prices. FCI has so far released 44.65 LMT of wheat at a reserve price of Rs. 2150 per quintal and Rs. 2125 per quintal for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) and Under Relaxed Specification (URS) wheat, respectively, through weekly e-auction. Out of this, 2.5 LMT of wheat has been allocated to semi-government and cooperative organisations like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandar @ Rs.21.50 per kg for conversion into atta and for sale at a Maximum Retail price (MRP) not exceeding Rs. 27.50 per kg for the benefit of general consumers. These interventions in the open market have increased availability of foodgrains and moderated prices.

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Besides, Government is providing foodgrains to beneficiaries in all States/UTs as per their entitlement free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PM-GKAY) w.e.f. 1st January,2023. Free foodgrains under PM-GKAY shall continue to be provided for further 5 years w.e.f. 01.01.2024 to beneficiaries in all States/UTs, at an estimated cost to the Union Government, of Rs.11.79 lakh crores.

As there is a need to maintain sufficient stocks for market intervention/control prices, sale of wheat and rice under OMSS(D) to States only has been discontinued w.e.f. 13.06.2023. However, the sale of rice under OMSS(D) is to continue in the North-Eastern States, Hilly States and States facing law & order situation and natural calamities.
