

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2436
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024

BUFFER STOCK OF FOOD GRAINS WITH FCI

2436 **DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:**

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the FCI holds buffer stock of food grains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including rice stocks over the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to maintain buffer stock and at the same time, releasing the same to check undue rise in prices in the open market?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): The details of stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis a vis Foodgrains stocking norms during last five years and current year are as follows:

AS ON	W H E A T (in LMT)		R I C E (in LMT)		T O T A L (in LMT)	
	Actual stock	Foodgrains Stocking norms	Actual stock	Foodgrains Stocking norms	Actual stock	Foodgrains Stocking norms
01.04.2019	169.92	74.60	288.29	135.80	458.21	210.40
01.04.2020	247.74	74.60	320.81	135.80	568.55	210.40
01.04.2021	273.04	74.60	291.18	135.80	564.22	210.40
01.04.2022	189.90	74.60	323.22	135.80	513.12	210.40
01.04.2023	83.45	74.60	248.60	135.80	332.05	210.40
01.04.2024	75.02	74.60	301.57	135.80	376.59	210.40

.....2/-

(c): The measures taken by the Government to maintain Foodgrains stocking norms are as under:

- i) Based on the estimates for procurement of Paddy & Wheat before commencement of each marketing season, State Government agencies and Food Corporation of India(FCI) purchases Wheat & Paddy at Minimum Support Price(MSP) with prescribed FAQ specifications in stipulated time for Central Pool for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and to maintain Foodgrains stocking norms.
- ii) "One Nation, One MSP through DBT" implemented across the country from RMS 2021-22 onwards. The Payment of MSP has been ensured directly into farmers' account.
- iii) Procurement of Paddy and Wheat under MSP operations is mandatorily carried out through online procurement portals of respective States which has brought substantial transparency in the procurement process.
- iv) The State Procurement Portals have been integrated with Central Procurement Food Grains Portal (CFPP) to have repository of information on almost real time basis for better monitoring, review and decision making.

The measures taken to check undue rise of prices in open market are as follows:

- i) In addition to maintaining Foodgrains stocking norms and meeting the requirement of the TPDS and OWS, FCI, on the instructions from the Government, sells excess stocks of Wheat and Rice from the Central Pool at pre-determined prices in the open market from time to time under Open Market Sale Scheme(D){OMSS(D)} to offload the excess stocks and to moderate the prices in open market.
- ii) In order to manage the overall food security, to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the Government of India also imposes stock limits on Wheat applicable to Traders/Wholesalers, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers and Processors in all States and Union Territories.

- iii) Bharat Atta and Bharat rice are sold at reasonable retail prices. During Phase- I of Bharat Brand sales, 15.20 LMT of Bharat Atta and 14.58 LMT of Bharat Rice was sold. A quantity of 3.71 LMT wheat for sale of Bharat Atta and 2.91 LMT rice for sale of Bharat Rice has been allocated at present for sale during Phase II of Bharat Brand.
- iv) Also, 10 LMT rice has been allocated for sale under OMSS(D) on 11.07.2024 to private parties through e-auction and State Governments without e-auction. Under OMSS(D), 25 LMT of wheat has been allocated on 28.11.2024 for sale to private parties through e-auction.
