

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3567
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2026

AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL FOODGRAINS

3567 **SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:**

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

- (a): the details of the present stock of foodgrains in the country;
- (b): whether the said stock is sufficient to meet the estimated internal demand of foodgrains in the country including welfare schemes being run by Government;
- (c): if so, the details thereof and the estimated demand of foodgrains in the country during the current year; and
- (d): the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate availability of essential foodgrains and to check price rise in the country?

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

(a) & (b): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 01.03.2026 was 600.96 lakh tons against the foodgrains stocking norms of 214.10 lakh tons for January to March quarter. It is adequate to meet the domestic requirement under National Food Security Act (NFSA), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and Additional allocation (natural calamity, festival, etc.).

(c): Allocation of foodgrains during 2025-26 are as under:-

| Allocation of Foodgrains during 2025-26 | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Name of Scheme | Quantity (In lakh tons) |
| TPDS/NFSA(PMGKAY) | 553.62 |
| Other Welfare Schemes | 51.80 |
| Additional Allocation (Festival, calamity etc.) | 1.53 |
| Grand total | 606.95 |

(d): The steps taken by the Government to ensure timely procurement and full payment to farmers are as under:

(i) FCI, the nodal central agency of Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation.

(ii) FCI and various State Agencies in consultation with the State Government establish adequate number of procurement centers at various mandis and key points. The number of centers and their locations are decided by the State Governments, based on various parameters, so as to maximize the MSP operations. Such extensive & effective price support operations have resulted in sustaining the income of farmers over a period.

(iii) Stocks conforming to the Government of India specifications which are offered by the farmers at purchase centers are procured by the Government Agencies at MSP. If the farmers get prices better than the support price in open market, they are free to sell their produce. Presence of Government Agencies ensures prevention of distress sale of food grains by the farmers.

(iv) Procurement of foodgrains under MSP operations is mandatorily being carried out through State Procurement Portals which has brought in substantial transparency in the process.

(v) "One Nation, One MSP through DBT" has been implemented across the country to ensure payment of MSP directly into farmers' account. Necessary directions have been issued by Got to all procuring State Governments for making the payment of MSP to farmers preferably within 48 Hours from the issue of procurement receipt.

Government of India monitors the daily prices of 40 essential food commodities submitted by the 578 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of food commodities are stable and under control.
