

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2609
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026

SURPLUS RICE STOCKS WITH THE FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

2609 SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the accumulation of surplus Rice stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) over and above the prescribed buffer norms, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantity of Paddy procured, Rice stocks held by FCI and the prescribed buffer norms during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the continuous accumulation of surplus Rice stocks;
- (d) the expenditure incurred by Government towards storage and maintenance of such surplus stocks, year-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken to optimise procurement, reduce surplus stocks and improve foodgrain management while safeguarding the interests of farmers?

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

(a): Total stock of foodgrains and Foodgrains Stocking Norms in Central Pool (Buffer Stocks) are given below:

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	Stock of Rice	Foodgrain Stocking Norms (Buffer Stocks)
1st April, 2026	386.10	135.80
1st July, 2026	403.11	135.40

(b): The procurement of Paddy, Total Rice stocks and Foodgrain stocking norms for Kharif Marketing season 2020-21 to 2025-26 are given below:

Kharif Marketing Season	Procurement of Paddy In LMT)	Total Rice stocks (As on 1st April)	Foodgrain stocking norms (Buffer Norms as on 1st April)
2020-21	895.66	320.81	135.80
2021-22	857.30	291.18	135.80
2022-23	808.45	323.22	135.80
2023-24	772.61	248.60	135.80
2024-25	822.80	301.57	135.80
2025-26*	849.20	382.09	135.80

*Data is as on 02.08.2026

(c): The continuous accumulation of surplus stocks is fundamentally driven by a supply-demand mismatch built into the structure of the central foodgrain pool :

1. Open-Ended Procurement Policy: The Government of India enforces an open-ended policy under which central and state agencies purchase all quantities of paddy offered by farmers at the Minimum Support Price(MSP).

2.Procurement Exceeding Welfare Offtake: Total quantity of rice procured continuously exceeds the maximum statutory allocation and offtake required for the National Food Security Act(NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes(OWS).

(d): The expenditure incurred on carrying cost of buffer stock of rice held by FCI for last five Audited Financial Years are as follows :-

Financial Year	Audited Buffer Carrying Cost of Rice (Rs. Crore)
2020-21	3143.89
2021-22	4876.03
2022-23	739.97
2023-24	5831.27
2024-25	10171.71

(e): This Department undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy for Central Pool to meet the requirements under TPDS/OWS, while also ensuring maintenance of adequate buffer stocks and extending the benefits of MSP operations to farmers. The estimates for procurement of wheat and paddy are finalized by the Government of India(GoI) after consultations with the respective State governments, before the commencement of each marketing season, taking into account a range of factors including estimated production, past years' procurement, and marketable surplus.

Government of India sells surplus foodgrains (Wheat and rice), beyond the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements, through open sale under Open Market sales scheme (Domestic) {OMSS(D)}. This helps increase the availability of foodgrains in the market, control inflation, ensure food security and make foodgrains more affordable for the general population. In addition, Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were launched on 06.11.2023 and 06.02.2024, respectively, with a view to provide atta (wheat flour) and rice to general consumers at subsidized rates under OMSS(D) policy.

In order to widen out the reach of MSP operations for Paddy, Government of India has made a provision for engagement of Co-operative societies/Self Help Groups/Panchayats/PACS/FPOs by the State procuring agencies so that maximum farmers can avail the benefit of Price support operations.

Government of India has also promoted and encouraged decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains by the State Govt. and their agencies to widen penetration of MSP operations to every nook & corner of the country.
