

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2087
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2023**

RICE AUCTION UNDER OMSS

2087. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the response from the private players to Government's plan to auction rice from the Food Corporation of India under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) was lukewarm;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government is considering to tweak the OMSS;
- (d) whether it is also true that the Government has restricted the State Governments from purchasing foodgrains using OMSS; and
- (e) whether it is true that the Government favours private players over State Governments and if so, the reasons therefor?

**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 (b): 4 weekly e-auctions (till 26.07.2023) was conducted by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for sale of rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] 2023 to private parties. The quantity sold in these e-auctions are as under:

Date of e-auction	Quantity Sold (in MT)
05.07.2023	170.00
12.07.2023	290.00
19.07.2023	10.00
26.07.2023	100.00
Total	570.00

.....2/-

(c): OMSS(D) policy is reviewed whenever required considering the stock position in central pool, prevalent market prices of wheat and rice etc.

(d) to (e): Government of India has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] to all State Governments w.e.f. 13th June, 2023, barring northeast, hilly states and those facing law and order situations and natural calamities. Keeping in view the benefit of ~ 140 crore citizens of the country, Government of India has taken this decision to maintain adequate stock in Central Pool for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes (OWS) amid concerns over monsoon due to expected deficiency in rainfall caused by El-Nino which will adversely affect Kharif crop production in country, control inflationary trends and the ongoing geopolitical situation. Also, it was decided to offer rice under OMSS(D) to retail buyers for controlling the price rise in the market and thereby controlling the food inflation. However, Government is providing foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries as per their entitlement free of cost as committed under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PM-GKAY) w.e.f. 1st January, 2023.
