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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2023

BAN ON PURCHASE OF WHEAT AND RICE

2293. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;
SHRI RAJIV RanJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) the reason behind the ban imposed by the Government on purchase of wheat and rice by the States from Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether the said ban will not hinder the implementation of Food Security scheme in the country particularly in the poorer States;

(c) whether inflation in the country can be kept under check by maintaining higher stocks of food grains in the godowns of FCI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (d): 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 commited under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PM-GKAY) w.e.f. 1st January, 2023.

Government has taken various steps from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, inter-alia, include releases of wheat and rice under OMSS(D) from central pool stock of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to cool down prices.

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