

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th MARCH, 2021**

UTILISATION OF BUFFER STOCK IN VIEW OF FARMERS PROTESTS

***296. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken serious note of the threat from the agitating farmers unions that they will prolong the agitation till the issues are resolved even if it meant farming community sacrificing one crop to continue their agitation along the borders of the National Capital;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is acquiesced to the situation where there will be no procurement or addition to central food grain buffer stocks; and
- (c) if so, the details of the contingency plans of the Government to ensure optimum utilization of existing buffer stocks primarily for Public Distribution System and Social Welfare Schemes?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *296 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.03.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. Government of India (GoI) has engaged itself actively, constantly and consistently with the agitating farmers unions and eleven rounds of negotiations were held between Government and agitating farmers unions to resolve the issues.

The procurement trend of foodgrains is normal and smooth. There has been no deficit in procurement of foodgrain against stocking norms, in fact it is surplus. Despite all difficulties associated with COVID – 19 pandemic, the Government went ahead in antedating KMS 2020-21 season which witnessed a massive surge in procurement of paddy that has reached to 677.59 LMT (as on 11.03.2021) against the last year's corresponding procurement of 593.52 LMT, which is an increase of 14.16%. As on 01.01.2021, the total stock of foodgrains (wheat and rice) is 529.59 LMT against the stocking norms of 214.10 LMT, indicating surplus of 315.49 LMT. Following major steps were taken for smooth handling of procurement operations.

i) Apart from Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC), large number of additional temporary Paddy Purchase Centres (PPC) were operated at Silos, Depots , Village and Gram Panchayat levels etc., by govt. agencies.

ii) Priority was given to Small and Marginal Farmers in order to mitigate their problems.

iii) the Government of India announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) at the beginning of the sowing season of crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). FCI and State Govt. Agencies procure the foodgrains at MSP fixed by GOI.

iv) MSP (Minimum Support Price) operations were given wide publicity through print & electronic media.

v) Farmers were made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc. to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specifications.

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vi) Procurement centres are opened by respective State Govt. Agencies/ FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.

In view of the steps taken by Gol, the procurement operations were handled smoothly resulting in increase in quantity procured and number of farmers benefited.

As per the stocking norms for the Central Pool, Operational stock and Strategic Reserve are maintained to meet the operational requirement of foodgrains and exigencies at any point of time. Foodgrains are drawn from Strategic reserve in case of crisis such as abnormal shortfall in production of foodgrains in the country or natural calamity. Foodgrain stocking norms of the central pool, with effect from 22.01.2015 are as per below table:

(Figures in Lakh MT)

| As on | Operational Stock | | | Strategic Reserve | | Grand Total |
|-------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| | Rice | Wheat | Total | Rice | Wheat | |
| 1st April | 115.80 | 44.60 | 160.40 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 210.40 |
| 1st July | 115.40 | 245.80 | 361.20 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 411.20 |
| 1st October | 82.50 | 175.20 | 257.70 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 307.70 |
| 1st January | 56.10 | 108.00 | 164.10 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 214.10 |

Stock position of wheat and rice in central pool against the stocking norms is enclosed as Annexure - I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *296 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.03.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.

**STOCK POSITION OF WHEAT AND RICE IN THE CENTRAL POOL VIS A VIS
FOODGRAINS STOCKING NORMS**

(in lakh MT)

| AS ON | W H E A T | | R I C E | | T O T A L | | Surplus Stock |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Foodgrain Stocking norms | Actual stock | Foodgrain Stocking norms | Actual stock | Foodgrain Stocking norms | Actual stock | |
| 1.01.2019 | 138.00 | 271.21 | 76.10 | 182.91 | 214.10 | 454.12 | 240.02 |
| 1.04.2019 | 74.60 | 169.92 | 135.80 | 293.94 | 210.40 | 463.86 | 253.46 |
| 1.07.2019 | 275.80 | 458.31 | 135.40 | 284.21 | 411.20 | 742.52 | 331.32 |
| 1.10.2019 | 205.20 | 393.16 | 102.50 | 249.16 | 307.70 | 642.32 | 334.62 |
| 1.01.2020 | 138.00 | 327.96 | 76.10 | 237.15 | 214.10 | 565.11 | 351.01 |
| 1.04.2020 | 74.60 | 247.00 | 135.80 | 322.39 | 210.40 | 569.39 | 358.99 |
| 1.07.2020 | 275.80 | 549.91 | 135.40 | 271.71 | 411.20 | 821.62 | 410.42 |
| 1.10.2020 | 205.20 | 437.38 | 102.50 | 192.61 | 307.70 | 629.99 | 322.29 |
| 1.01.2021 | 138.00 | 342.90 | 76.10 | 186.69 | 214.10 | 529.59 | 315.49 |
