

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4158
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2026

BUFFER STOCKS OF FOODGRAINS

4158. SHRI G LAKSHMINARAYANA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a): the total quantity of foodgrains maintained in the Central Pool during the last five financial years, year and commodity-wise;
- (b): the details of the prescribed buffer norms and strategic reserve requirements for the corresponding period, quarter and year-wise;
- (c): whether actual stock levels exceeded the prescribed buffer norms during the said period and if so, the extent of excess stock maintained, year-wise;
- (d): the details of the total expenditure incurred on maintenance of buffer stocks by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last five financial years, year-wise along with a break-up under major heads including storage, interest, handling, transportation and stock rotation;
- (e): whether the Government has assessed the additional carrying cost attributable to maintenance of stocks above the prescribed buffer norms and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f): whether the Government proposes to rationalise procurement and storage levels in order to reduce the fiscal burden and improve efficiency in foodgrain management and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (c): Total stock of foodgrains, Foodgrain stocking Norms for central pool and Excess stocks during the last five years are as below:

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	Stock of Wheat and Rice			Foodgrain Stocking Norms (Buffer Stocks)	Excess stock
	Wheat	Rice	Total		
1st April, 2021	273.04	291.18	564.22	210.40	353.82
1st April, 2022	189.90	323.22	513.12	210.40	302.72
1st April, 2023	83.45	248.60	332.05	210.40	121.65
1st April, 2024	75.02	301.57	376.59	210.40	166.19
1st April, 2025	117.94	382.09	500.03	210.40	289.63

(b): Foodgrain stocking Norms for central pool (Buffer Norms) with effect from 22.01.2015 are as follows:-

Fig. In lakh MT

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

(d) The details of the buffer cost incurred during the last five financial years are enclosed as **Annexure-A**.

(e): The additional carrying cost of FCI attributable to maintenance of stocks mainly involves storage and interest. Based on the audited FY 2024–25 buffer carrying cost calculation, the rate of storage is Rs. 163.04 per Qtl and rate of interest is Rs. 220.44 per Qtl.

(f): The Government policy of procurement has broad objectives of ensuring MSP to the farmer and availability of food to the weaker section at affordable prices. State Government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchase wheat and paddy conforming to prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications and offered by farmers for procurement so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale. However, if producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market. Procurement in a State depends not only upon production but also upon other factor like marketable surplus, MSP, prevailing market rate, demand and supply situation and participation of private traders etc”.

Carrying cost of buffer stocks

Amount Rs. Lakh

Details of cost	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Handling	23,866.95	35,655.25	4,459.76	48,825.15	82,509.55
Storage Charges	81,027.81	1,11,278.12	16,344.94	1,41,387.77	3,14,543.69
Interest	1,11,105.23	2,04,528.04	-843.35	2,27,503.58	4,25,303.06
Freight	83,576.95	94,051.85	45,736.20	1,17,625.70	1,60,433.14
Administrative Overheads	10,923.60	19,479.38	2,740.30	35,961.17	69,964.85
Transit Shortages	3,685.65	4,078.66	1,859.29	3,343.12	4,548.77
Storage shortages	17,289.92	18,531.23	3,699.79	10,741.26	18,741.06
Total	3,31,476.11	4,87,602.53	73,996.93	5,85,387.75	10,76,044.12