

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 07.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**STOCK MAINTENANCE OF FOOD ITEMS .**

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SHRI PERVEZ HASHMI

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

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- (a) the rules framed by the Central or State Governments for proper stock maintenance system for food items to check rising prices of food items;
- (b) whether any proposal to change the existing rules/laws regarding import of food items is under consideration;
- (c) whether there is scarcity of food items due to calamity or bad weather damaging the crops and the details of methodology adopted to estimate such loss; and
- (d) the details of the arrangement with Government to fix buffer stock of food items so that their sufficient availability may be ensured?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) : Buffer stocks of foodgrains to be maintained in the Central Pool are fixed taking into consideration the requirement of foodgrains during a particular quarter, procurement season, lean periods, offtake in the preceding years and other relevant factors. As per the present Buffer Stocking Policy, certain minimum stocks of foodgrains are to be maintained by FCI / State Agencies in the Central Pool on the first day of each quarter. The Government does not maintain stock of sugar. The stock of sugar is maintained by the sugar mills.

(b) : The Buffer Stocking Policy is reviewed from time to time, normally after every five years. The existing norms were revised with effect from April 2005. The existing stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are adequate to meet the requirements under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes as per existing levels of allocations.

(c) : As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released by Ministry of Agriculture, the production of food grains for 2010-11 is estimated to be 232.07 million tonnes, as compared to last year at 218.11 million tonnes. The estimated wheat production during 2010-11 is 81.47 million tonnes, which is marginally higher than the last year's production at 80.80 million tonnes. The estimated rice production during 2010-11 is 94.01 million tonnes as against 89.09 million tonnes last year. In the case of Pulses, the production is estimated at 16.51 million tonnes as against the final estimates of 14.66 million tonnes in 2009-10. There is no estimate of any losses in view of the above.

(d) : Buffer stock of rice and wheat is maintained by the Central Government. Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 10.3.2000, or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by the State Governments, whichever is less. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted 6.25 crore families in the country. Allocations under Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

The details of minimum buffer norms fixed and the actual stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool during the past two years 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Annexure-I. In the case of pulses there is no procurement and pulses are not stored by the Government.