

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN):
 (a) and (b) The Government has fixed an uniform out turn ratio of 67% and 68% for raw and parboiled rice respectively for all States including Madhya Pradesh with effect from Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96.

Wheat and Rice Stocks in Godowns

†1687. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of wheat and rice stock is available in Government godowns, in addition to their buffer stock;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice available, in addition to buffer stock, at the end of September, 1999;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wheat is being imported, inspite of its easy availability in the country; and

(d) if so, the estimated quantity of wheat imported during the first nine months of 1999, and the reasons for its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the stock of wheat and rice in Central Pool as on 30th September, 1999 as compared to Buffer Stock norms was as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Stock	Buffer Stock	Norms Surplus
Wheat	204.05	116.00	88.05
Rice	88.18	65.00	23.18

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) & (d) As per the EXIM policy, import of wheat is canalised through the food Corporation of India. However, in order to augment the domestic availability of wheat, Roller Flour Mills were allowed, with effect from 13.12.1996, to freely import wheat to meet their own requirement on actual user condition for milling purposes and sale of the resultant flour in the domestic market, after registering their import contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), with effect from 5.10.1998 Roller Flour Mills can freely import wheat either directly or through State Trading Corporation of India (STC), Project Equipment Corporation and Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC). 14.15 lakh MTs of wheat was imported on Government account during 1998-99. There was no import of wheat on Government account during the current year (i.e. 1999-2000) so far.

Excess Procurement and Import of Wheat

1688. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommended wheat buffer stock is 40 lac tone;

(b) how much stock was there in July and in October, 1999;

(c) whether it is a fact that it costs approximately Rs. 1596 to store one ton of wheat in one year; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are losing Rs. 1400 crores a year as a result of excess procurement and imports, as reported in the Indian Express of 25th November, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. the recommended wheat buffer stock for 1st April is 40 lakh tonnes.