

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Quantity of rice allotted to Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years
1988-89	8.60
1989-90	12.25
1990-91	21.33
1991-92	15.42

(October-July)

Import of Foodgrains and Sugar

285. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imported foodgrains and sugar during the year 1991-92 and in the current year;

(b) if so, grain-wise and yearwise details thereof;

(c) how much sugar has been imported or exported; and

(d) what necessitated Government to import foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Government have not imported wheat, rice and sugar during 1991-92. During the current year also there have been no imports of these commodities so far. However, the Government have signed a contract with Canadian Wheat Board for import of 10.05 lakh tonnes of wheat for shipment during mid-July—mid-September, 1992.

(c) 5.07 lakh tonnes of sugar were exported during 1991-92. During the current year (upto 30-6-92), 0.98

lakh tonnes of sugar have been exported.

(d) Some balancing import of wheat became unavoidable due to factors like fall in production of foodgrains especially coarsegrains during 1991-92 as compared to the production during 1990-91 with consequent imbalance in demand-supply, lower level of procurement of wheat during 1991-92 and 1992-93 marketing seasons and the consequent need for building up stocks in the Central Pool for maintaining supplies in PDS and achieving food security.

Procurement of wheat

286. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target set for procurement of wheat during current year State-wise;

(b) what was the actual procurement of wheat during the year;

(c) what are the reasons for low procurement of wheat;

(d) what is its likely impact on the stocks of foodgrains vis-a-vis public distribution system;

(e) what would be the estimated gap between demand and supply till the next procurement season;

(f) what steps Government propose to take to meet the gap between demand and supply;

(g) whether Government have since decided to import wheat keeping in view the requirement; and

(h) if so, what quantity of wheat is proposed to be imported and what is the total amount estimated to be required for this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The procurement of wheat being under price sup-

port operation and totally on a voluntary basis, no target as such can be fixed.

(b) A quantity of 63.74 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 3-7-1992 in the current 1992-93 rabi marketing season.

(c) Wheat is procured on voluntary basis as a Minimum Support Price operation, the farmer being free to sell elsewhere if he gets a price better than the MSP. The main factor leading to low procurement, inspite of an all time record increase in procurement price, has been the higher open market prices of wheat particularly in the main procurement areas/States resulting in withholding of stocks by the farmers and less arrivals in the mandies.

(d) to (h) The position of wheat and rice stocks in the Central Pool, as on 1st April, 1992, as compared to the position obtaining on 1st April, 1991 and the minimum stocks required under the National Buffer Stocking Policy, was as under:—

(in million tonnes)

Item	Stocks in the Central Pool as on		Minimum stocks required as per the buffer stocking policy as on 1st April
	1-4-1991	1-4-1992	
Wheat	5.56	2.23	3.7
Rice	10.17	8.89	10.8
Total	15.73	11.12	14.5

As on 1st June, 1992, the total stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool on Central and States account were 9.06 million tonnes and 7.42 million tonnes respectively.

The stocks of rice in the Central Pool are adequate to meet the requirements of public distribution system etc. In case of wheat, the situation was a little tighter and

while the stock position is kept under constant review, a contract has been entered into with the Canadian Wheat Board for import of 10.05 lakh tonnes of wheat for shipment during July-October, 1992. The average FOB price of Canadian Wheat works out to be about US \$ 147.78 per M.F.