

Black-marketing of wheat

2139. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

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

- (a) whether production of wheat is falling alarmingly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to meet the shortage and to check the rise in price of wheat due to its black-marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The production of wheat during the past three years and the current year has been as under:

(in Million Tonnes)	
Rabi Marketing Year	Production
2007-08	75.81
2008-09	78.57
2009-10	80.68
2010-11*	80.71

*Forth Advance Estimate of Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation released on 19.7.2010

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the availability of wheat in the country as well as to check the rise in prices is given in Statement.

Statement

*Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability of wheat
in the country as well as to check the rise in prices*

The following steps have been taken to contain the rise in prices of wheat:

- (i) Wheat export on private account has been banned from 9.2.2007 till further orders.

- (ii) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted till further orders.
- (iii) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat have not been increased since 1.7.2002 in order to lessen the burden of inflation on the poor.
- (iv) The MSP for wheat was fixed at Rs.1000 per quintal for RMS 2008-09, Rs. 1080 per quintal for RMS 2009-10 and Rs.1100 per quintal for RMS 2010-11. These levels of MSP for wheat have ensured remunerative prices to farmers and comfortable procurement levels.
- (v) Additional allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
 - (a) An additional monthly allocation of approx. 4.57 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) have been allowed for a period of six months at APL CIPs for those States, where the present level of APL allocation is less than 15 kg per family per month.
 - (b) Specific adhoc additional allocation of 30.66 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has been made for all cardholders w.e.f. 19.5.2010 with validity for lifting upto 20.11.2010 @ of Rs.8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs.11.85 per kg for rice.
 - (c) An additional allocation of wheat/rice @ 10 kg/family/months of January & February 2010 has been made to the accepted numbers of AAY, BPL & APL ration cards. This is in addition to existing allocation while the wheat will be allocated at MSP price and rice will be allotted at MSP derived price.
- (vi) Allocation under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS):-

20.65 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice have been allocated to State Governments for retail sale. In addition, 20.81 lakh tonnes have been allotted for tender sale to bulk consumers and another 5 lakh tonnes have been allotted for sale to small users.
- (vii) Further, in order to prevent black-marketing, powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act 1980.