

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.319
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST MARCH, 2023

STOCK OF FOOD ITEMS

319 DR. SONAL MANSINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is concerned about the depleting stock of wheat, rice and cereal items in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of stock of various food items with FCI in the country;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure minimum stock of food items;
- (d) whether Ukraine-Russia conflict affected the buffer stock of food items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken to ensure necessary stock of food items in the country?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *319 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

(a) to (c): The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 01.03.2023 was 329.85 LMT (comprising 210.54 LMT rice, 116.70 LMT wheat and 2.61 LMT nutri-cereals) as against prescribed foodgrains stocking norms (Buffer Norms) of 214.10 LMT.

The estimates for procurement of wheat and paddy are finalized by Government of India in consultation with State Governments and Food Corporation of India, before the commencement of each marketing season based upon estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern. During RMS 2023-24, in consultation with State Governments and Food Corporation of India (FCI), 341.50 Lakh Metric Tonnes wheat procurement has been estimated under central pool. Procurement of paddy for KMS 2022-23 (Kharif) is under progress and 490.86 LMT paddy (in terms of rice) has been procured upto 26.03.2023 against estimate of 514.72 LMT paddy (in terms of rice).

(d): During RMS 2022-23, despite the Ukraine Russia conflict, stock of wheat as on 1st July 2022 was 285.10 LMT which was above the prescribed buffer norms of 275.80 LMT.

(e) The steps taken by Government of India to increase wheat, rice and *coarse* grain procurement are as under :

- Government of India has fixed the MSP of wheat at Rs. 2125 per quintal for RMS 2023-24 with an increase of Rs. 110 per quintal over last year and MSP of rice at Rs. 2060 per quintal for marketing year 2022-23 with an increase of Rs. 100 per quintal over last year MSP.
- MSP is announced well before the sowing season, so as to enable the farmers to take empowered decision on cultivation of crop.
- Farmers are made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc. to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specifications.
- Sufficient numbers of procurement centres are opened by procuring agencies including FCI, keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the State concerned. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/ godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.

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- “One Nation, One MSP through DBT” implemented across the country from RMS 2021-22 onwards. Payment of MSP has been ensured directly into farmers' account. DBT reduced the diversion and duplication of payment as payment is being made directly to farmer's bank account. DBT of MSP has brought in responsibility, transparency and probity.
- FCI and most of the State Governments have developed their own Online Procurement System which ushers in transparency and convenience to the farmers through proper registration and monitoring of actual procurement. Through e-procurement module deployed by procuring Agencies, farmers get latest/updated information regarding MSP declared, nearest purchase center, date of procurement etc. This not only has reduced the waiting period for delivery of stock by the farmers but also enables the farmer to deliver stock as per his convenience in the nearest mandi.
