

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2126

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000

EXPORT OF WHEAT AND RICE

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export the excess stock from the foodgrain reserves;
- (b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice fixed for export during the current year alongwith the name of the country;
- (c) whether the Government have also ascertained the possibilities of export of wheat and rice from the country; and
- (d) if so, the estimated maximum and minimum price of wheat in the international market at present and the price at which wheat and rice can be sold in the country without incurring any loss?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) & (c):- To liquidate surplus wheat stocks, it has, inter-alia, been decided by the Government to explore possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to SAARC countries, or other countries as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. Accordingly, possibilities of export of wheat are being explored. However, no concrete response has so far emerged. Ruling prices of Central Pool wheat stocks in India, as compared to the international prices, being high, export of Indian wheat has not been commercially viable. No specific quantity of wheat has been fixed for export. At present, there is no decision to export rice from the Central Pool.

(d) As per the International Grains Council Grain Market Indicators for the week ending 25.7.2000, the international wheat export prices ranged between US\$ 93 PMT to US\$ 184 PMT.

There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic), under which any buyer can purchase wheat from FCI at the rate of Rs.900/- per quintal, subject to the condition that the indented quantity is not less than 10 tonnes. Additionally, Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates:-

Month	Rate per Quintal
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July, 2000	Rs. 700/-
August, 2000	Rs. 750/-
September, 2000	Rs. 800/-

There is, presently, no such scheme in respect of rice.