

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:315
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
PRICE OF WHEAT
Singh Shri Prabhunath

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

- (a) the production and consumption of wheat in the country during the last year and the current year;
- (b) the price of wheat in the country as on date;
- (c) the difference between the retail price and Minimum Support Price as on date;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to check unlimited storage and hoarding of wheat to control its prices; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (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. 315 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The production of wheat in the country during the years 2003-04(2004-05 marketing season) and 2004-05 (2005-06 marketing season) was 72.1 and 72.0 million tonnes respectively. As per the methodology adopted by the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) and based on available NSS data, the estimated household consumption of wheat during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 is 64.46 and 64.27 million tonnes respectively.

(b): The retail prices of wheat in the country range from Rs. 8 per kg. to Rs. 16 per kg.

(c): The difference between the Minimum Support Price of wheat and the retail selling price in the major wheat growing States is Rs. 1.50 per kg. to Rs. 4.00 per kg.

(d) & (e): To facilitate free trade and movement of foodgrains, enable the farmer to get better prices for his produce and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas, the Government of India has issued a Notification on 15.2.2002, inter alia, removing stock limits for foodgrains. There is no proposal before the Government for re-introduction of stock limits for foodgrains.