

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2193

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) the current stocks and demand of foodgrains in the country, grain-wise;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on welfare schemes for Below Poverty Line families;
- (d) the factors attributed to the shortage of foodgrains;
- (e) whether there has been a decline in the procurement of foodgrains over the years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and grain-wise;
- (g) whether the decline in procurement is due to monopolisation of grain markets by the Multi-National Companies and private entrepreneurs; and
- (h) if so, the steps taken to put a check on this tendency?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The current stocks position of foodgrains as on 1.7.2006 are as follows:

Grain (in lakh tonnes)

Rice	111.44
Wheat	82.07
Coarsegrains	11.62
Total	205.12

On the basis of trend of offtake of foodgrains so far in the current financial year, the estimated monthly requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes works out to 20 lakh tonnes of rice and 10 lakh tonnes of wheat per month.

(b) & (c): The stock of rice is above the buffer norms of 98 lakh tonnes as on 1.7.2006. The stock of wheat is below the buffer norms of 171 lakh tonnes on that date. Keeping in view the dwindling wheat stocks, the allocation of wheat under TPDS has been streamlined for all the States/UTs on the basis of past offtake, without reducing the overall entitlement of foodgrains at the rate of 35 kgs per household per month. The release of foodgrains under Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Special Component of SGRY has been rationalized.

(d): The decline of foodgrain stocks has been, inter alia, due to the following decisions taken by Government since March, 2002 to liquidate excess stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool:

1. Increase in scale of allocation of foodgrains from 25 to 35 kgs per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.
2. To fix the scale of allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) families at 35 kgs. per family per month.
3. To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 Kg per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of BPL allocation to States/UTs at BPL rates.

4. Expansion of wage employment programmes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) including Special Component of SGRY and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP).

5. To increase the coverage of AAY families from 1 crore to 2.5 crore in the three phases w.e.f. 5.6.2003, 3.8.2004 and 12.5.2005.

6. Export of foodgrains which continued upto November, 2004 and

7. Lower procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Seasons 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(e) & (f): Year wise procurement of foodgrains for the last three years is given below:

KMS/RMS# Procurement (in lakh tonnes)  
Rice Wheat Coarsegrains

2003-04 228.28 158.01 6.51  
2004-05 246.85 167.95 8.27

2005-06 276.78 147.85 11.44  
(as on 10.8.06)  
2006-07 92.26  
(as on 10.8.06)

# KMS - Kharif Marketing Season (from October to September)

# RMS - Rabi Marketing Season (from April to March)

(g) & (h): As per the present procurement policy, the Government agencies carry out Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in wheat producing areas. However, the farmer is free to sell his produce to the Government agencies or private traders, including large private companies, as is advantageous to him.

During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07, there has been higher private participation in wheat procurement. To procure sufficient quantities of wheat, the Department of Food & Public Distribution has formulated a proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP.