

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3988
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2026

QUANTITY OF WHEAT AND RICE

**3988 SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:
DR. PRASHANT YADAORAO PADOLE:**

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

- (a) the total quantity of wheat and rice held in the Central pool as on 1st April, 2026 and the extent to which this exceeds the prescribed buffer norms;
- (b) the quantum of wheat procurement achieved during the Rabi Marketing Season 2026-27 as compared to the previous season and the number of farmers benefited through Minimum Support Price operations; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that surplus foodgrain stocks are efficiently utilised, so as to optimise storage costs?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Total stock of foodgrains and Foodgrains Stocking Norms in Central Pool (Buffer Stocks) as on 1st April, 2026 is given below:

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

Stock of Wheat and Rice				Foodgrain Stocking Norms (Buffer Stocks)		
As on	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
1 st April, 2026	217.92	386.10	604.02	74.60	135.80	210.40

(b): The procurement of wheat and number of farmers benefited during the Rabi Marketing season 2025-26 and 2026-27 are given below:

Rabi Marketing Season	Procurement of Wheat (In LMT)	Numbers of farmers benefited
2025-26	299.75	2512823
2026-27	357.57	3482564

(c): Government of India sells surplus foodgrains (Wheat and rice), beyond the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements, through open sale under Open Market sales scheme (Domestic) {OMSS(D)}. This helps increase the availability of foodgrains in the market, control inflation, ensure food security and make foodgrains more affordable for the general population. In addition, Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were launched on 06.11.2023 and 06.02.2024, respectively, with a view to provide atta (wheat flour) and rice to general consumers at subsidized rates under OMSS(D) policy.
