

Centre eyes bumper wheat crop, 23% hike in procurement

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New Delhi: Govt on Wednesday estimated wheat procurement to be around 300-320 lakh tonne during the rabi marketing season, starting March 1, amid projection of a bumper winter crop this year. This will be around 23% more than the quantity procured last year and will be enough to meet the food security requirement and for future market interventions.

TOI learnt that food ministry estimated procurement after long deliberations with state food secretaries on Wednesday. Govt also estimated wheat production to be around 1,110 lakh tonne this year, slightly lower than last estimate. "We will keep reviewing the progress regularly with states. Additional procurement centres will be opened in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan to buy more wheat at MSP from farmers," an official said.

The increase in wheat procurement will bolster

FIELD REPORT

Govt wheat procurement & open market sale (in lakh tonnes)

Year	Procurement	Open market sale
2019-20	341	36
2020-21	390	25
2021-22	433	70
2022-23	188	33
2023-24	262	94
2025-26	300-320*	NA

*Estimated procurement



stock of Food Corporation of India (FCI), which has plummeted to an eight year low of around 100 lakh tonne because of less procurement during past two years because of a fall in production.

Sources said two major wheat producing states — Punjab and Madhya Pradesh — are estimated to procure around 130 lakh tonne and 80 lakh tonne respectively in the next marketing season, indicating MSP operations won't be impacted due to farmers' protest.

Uttar Pradesh, which will start buying wheat

from March 1, has estimated procurement of around 60 lakh tonne while procurement in Rajasthan and Bihar will start from March 10 and March 15 respectively. In MP, MSP operations will begin from March 22 while in Punjab and Haryana this will start from April 1.

Meanwhile, FCI has stopped weekly open market sale of wheat considering that the fresh crop will start arriving in mandis from next week and moderate the price. However, govt will continue selling Bharat Atta at subsidised price to consumers.