

# Rice stocks: Centre announces revised Open Market Sale Scheme policy for 2024-25

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The Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued a revised Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] policy for 2024-25 to regulate the sale of surplus rice stocks in the open market. As per the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the updated policy sets a uniform reserve price of Rs 2250 per quintal for rice across India.

Under the revised OMSS (D) policy, the state governments, state government corporations, and community kitchens can procure rice without participating in the e-auction process at the fixed price of Rs 2250 per quintal.

This provision is applicable for a total quantity not exceeding 12 lakh metric tonnes (LMT). The policy aims to ensure that non-surplus states facing additional rice requirements can meet their needs through this scheme.

The policy also facilitates the supply of surplus rice to ethanol distilleries for ethanol production at the same price of Rs 2250 per quintal. A maximum of 24 LMT of rice has been earmarked for this purpose. The ethanol distilleries across both surplus and deficit states can procure rice throughout the year. Moreover, in case of a shortfall in ethanol production from maize or other feedstocks, the shortfall can be supplemented using rice supplied



by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The government's OMSS(D) policy plays a crucial role in managing excess food grain stocks while supporting state

governments and ethanol producers, helping stabilize market prices and ensuring a steady supply of essential commodities. Further details of the policy are available in

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the annexures accompanying the official notification.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution BL Verma in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha informed that India's food inflation,

measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), eased to 8.39% in December 2024 from a high of 10.87% in October 2024. He claimed that the decline reflects the government's ongoing efforts to stabilize prices despite ad-

verse weather conditions and supply chain disruptions. The minister attributed the recent food price fluctuations to several factors, including seasonality in production, adverse weather, supply chain issues, and rising international prices. He highlighted that the El Niño phenomenon, which affected India for two consecutive years (2022-23 and 2023-24), significantly impacted the production of key food commodities like vegetables and pulses.