

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:72  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001  
SUPPORT PRICE FOR CROPS  
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Chief Ministers` Conference held in May this year took note of the fact that the system of support price and procurement had been confined to only two crops i.e. wheat and rice and that coarse-grains, pulses and edible oils had been neglected;
- (b) if so, the strategy evolved to diversify the support price and procurement mechanism to these crops; and
- (c) the steps being taken in that direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 72 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH JULY, 2001.

(a) to (c): At Chief Ministers` conference held on 21st May, 2001 some of the State Governments mentioned the need for procurement of coarse cereals, pulses, etc., under price support scheme. However, at present, a total of 25 major agricultural commodities are covered under the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement mechanism already exists for all these commodities. In case of fall in prices of these commodities below the MSPs, the nodal agencies, designated for respective commodities, are required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement. As a result of this mechanism, large quantities of oilseeds, copra and coarse cereals, in addition to wheat and rice, were procured during the years 2000-01 pursuant to the decline in their prices. The procurement of wheat and rice by the public procurement agencies, namely, Food Corporation of India (FCI) is, however, very large because procurement is undertaken not only for price stabilization reasons of these commodities, but also for maintaining buffer stock and for public distribution system (PDS). This is not the case with other commodities covered under the MSP scheme.