

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:394

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008

WHEAT IMPORT AT HIGHER PRICE

Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

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

- (a) whether wheat was imported at prices higher than its Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid to the farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the excess amount paid on imports during the last three years and in the current year;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to procure wheat at the price being paid for import;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to import wheat at competitive price?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 394 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21.04.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Import of wheat was done by floating global tenders at prevailing international prices which were higher than Minimum Support Price. Wheat was not imported on Government account during the year 2005-06. 54.54 lakh MT of wheat was imported at a weighted average price of US \$ 204.66 per MT during the year 2006-07 and 17.69 lakh MT of wheat was imported at a weighted average price of US \$ 372.82 per MT during the year 2007-08.

(c), (d) & (e): Wheat is procured at Minimum Support Price. Import of wheat is done through global tenders floated by designated Public Sector Undertakings who have the requisite expertise in international trade. The tender is published in leading newspapers as well as on the websites of these Undertakings in order to get wider participation in the tender. Further, the tender terms were streamlined to get competitive bids.