

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5381

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008

FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Food Regulatory Authority in the country,
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country's food requirements are growing and the country has become a net importer of food;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is also proposed to bring nearly 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuels cultivation by 2017; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the farmers to produce foodgrains to meet the requirement of foodgrains of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Food Regulatory Authority is being constituted under section 4 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. As per the provisions, the Food Authority shall be responsible for enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 enacted by Parliament and for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of articles of food to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

(c) & (d): The requirement of rice and wheat are growing in the country. However, India is a rice exporting country. In case of wheat, Government took decisions to import 55 and 18 lakh tonnes of wheat for the Central Pool during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively in order to meet the requirement of wheat for the TPDS and welfare schemes.

(e): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has informed that there is no proposal to bring 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuel crops. However, bio-fuel plantations comprising Jatropa and Karanj have been undertaken in the country with government assistance.

(f): In order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat and paddy, the procurement prices have been increased as follows:

(in Rs. per qtl.)

	Wheat	Paddy
	Common	Grade A

	RMS	RMS	KMS2006-07	KMS2007-08	KMS	KMS
	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08		

MSP	750	1000	580	645	610	675
Bonus	100	-	40	100	40	100
Procurement price	850	1000	620	745	650	775