

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:236

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008

FOOD CRISIS

Rajendran Shri P.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether Food and Agriculture Organisation and some other international agencies have warned against the impending food crisis in the world including India with low availability and high price of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any committee to study the food security situation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in the country at affordable 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. 236 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): In their latest assessment of November, 2008, Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Grain Council (IGC) have indicated world cereal production during 2008-09 to exceed anticipated utilization for the first time in four years, paving the way for recovery in the global stocks. In recent months, a more favourable supply prospect and financial situation in several countries have exerted downward pressure on international prices of most cereals. In India, presently there are adequate stocks of foodgrains available. Government has taken required measures to ensure availability of adequate quantities of foodgrains in near future as well. As per the latest estimates of Department of Agriculture, production of foodgrains and their availability during 2008-09 are estimated to be higher than 2007-08. A Statement showing world production, consumption, ending stocks as per the FAO and IGC and the international prices of select essential commodities over different periods in last one year are enclosed as Annex-I.

(c) & (d): No, Sir.

(e): The Government has taken various short term fiscal, administrative and monetary measures, besides Medium-term strategy initiatives to ensure adequate availability of food stocks in the country at affordable prices.