

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1988  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010  
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS  
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the crisis of food security is further deepening as a result of constant shortage of foodgrains and other food commodities;
- (b) if so, the details of the production, procurement and demand of foodgrains during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the private companies are procuring foodgrains directly from the farmers at a price much higher than that fixed by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum and price of foodgrains procured by these companies during the said period alongwith the prices fixed by the Government, year-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. A statement showing production, procurement and demand (human consumption) for wheat, rice and coarse grains during the last three years is at Annexure.

(c),(d)&(e): Under the existing policy for foodgrains procurement, all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers are bought from farmers by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market, including private companies, depending upon market price.