

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3784
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

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

- (a) the demand and procurement of foodgrains in the country during 2008-09 and 2009-10;
- (b) whether the Government has allowed the private companies to procure foodgrains in the country;
- (c) if so, whether this has led to decline in Government procurement due to increased procurement by the private parties leading to hoarding and artificial scarcity in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The procurement of wheat and rice for the Central Pool by Food Corporation of India(FCI) and State agencies during Crop year 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given below:-

(in lakh tonnes)
Year\$ Wheat Rice

2008-09 253.82 336.84

2009-10 225.25 303.72#

\$ pertains to crop year Oct.-Sept.
#as on August 12,2010.

The requirement of foodgrains is determined on the basis of allocations made to 6.52 crores identified BPL (including AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month and to APL families, depending upon the foodgrains stocks in central pool. The total allocations of foodgrains during 2008-09 & 2009-10 is 387.76 and 476.03 lakh tonnes respectively.

- (b): There is no ban on the private companies to procure foodgrains in the country. Farmers can sell their produce
- (i) to private operators in the open market and /or
 - (ii) to procuring agencies- FCI & State agencies for central pool at MSP; depending upon the prevailing prices in the market, whichever is advantageous to them.
- (c) and (d): No, Madam. This has been third successive year of high procurement.