

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1321
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
FOOD POLICY
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive food policy in view of the instability in the production of foodgrains, pulses and sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the new food policy is likely to be formulated?

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) & (c):

1. Long-term food policy of Government of India to ensure food security in the country is to encourage domestic production of food grains, pulses and sugarcane. To achieve this, various schemes/initiatives such as National Food Security Mission, revised Macro Management of Agriculture scheme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System are under implementation. In addition, Government declares revised Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for various crops every year to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.
2. The food grains procured under MSP operations are maintained as central pool stock and distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as well as Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) to ensure food security to weaker sections of society.
3. Whenever there is a gap in domestic demand and supply of food grains and sugar, as a short term measure Government imports and facilitates import of their required quantities. Similarly, if domestic production and procurement are excessively high, then after meeting the food security requirements exports of some surplus stocks are also allowed.
4. In order to ensure food security by law of poor and vulnerable sections of society, Government is working on enactment of a National Food Security Act.