

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2012

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

Krishnaswamy Shri M.;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Patel Shri Devji;Patel Shri R.K. Singh;Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) the targets fixed for procurement of foodgrains during the ensuing seasons;
- (b) whether the shortage of storage space and paucity of funds has adversely affected the process of procurement in some States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard including creation of additional storage space through Public Private Partnership mode;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to modify/revamp the present procurement system; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Initial estimates of likely procurement during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2011-12 commencing from 1st April, 2011, based on the State Food Secretaries meeting held on 7.2.2011 is 262.75 lakh tonnes.

(b) & (c): No Madam. Procurement of food grains conforming to uniform quality specifications at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is an open ended process where in whatever quantity is offered by farmers is procured at MSP.

The procurement of foodgrains has increased during the last three years and has put pressure on existing storage capacity. Additional storage capacity is created under Covered and Plinth (CAP) from time to time depending upon the additional food grains to be kept. For augmentation of the over all storage capacity, the Government has given approval for construction of about 150 lakh tones of additional covered storage capacity in 19 states of the country. Under the guaranteed scheme of FCI for constructions of godowns through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations.

(d) & (e): The Government in order to increase procurement encourages state governments to procure under Decentralised Procurement (DCP) system. At present 10 states are procuring under DCP System of procurement.