

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:174

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

SUBSIDISED FOODGRAINS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether certain sections including the Ministry of Agriculture have opposed the move to provide highly subsidised cheap foodgrains to larger sections of the population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide food to needy sections of the society at a subsidised rate?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : Government of India has proposed to enact a National Food Security Act. Under the said Act, Government is planning to allocate foodgrains to the needy citizens at the prices much below Minimum Support Price(MSP). Certain individuals/organizations in their comments on draft National Food Security Bill placed on Department of Food & Public Distribution website have expressed their disagreement with the provisions regarding highly subsidized foodgrains in the draft Bill. Planning commission in their comments have suggested that prices for priority category should not be fixed in nominal terms, but be linked to Minimum Support Price(MSP). Prices for general category may be specified at 100% of MSP. Ministry of Agriculture has also suggested that prices for the Above Poverty Line (APL) categories should be close to MSP.

In the said draft Bill, it is proposed to provide foodgrains to priority households at prices not exceeding Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains respectively and not exceeding 50% of the minimum support price for wheat and coarse grains, and derived minimum support price for rice for general households.