

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:173
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the procurement of foodgrains including rice, wheat and coarse cereals has risen or is estimated to rise during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the procurement of the said commodities during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve procurement during the ensuing year?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): 225.14 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2010-11 whereas during RMS 2011-12, 281.44 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured for the Central Pool. Similarly, 341.79 lakh tonnes of rice was procured during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2010-11. It is estimated that during KMS 2011-12, 353.15 lakh tonnes of rice may be procured against which 101.04 lakh tonnes of Rice has been procured upto 16.11.2011.

Details of wheat, rice and coarse cereals procured during the last 3 years and the current year is at Annexure-I, II & III respectively.

(c): Following steps have been taken by Govt. of India to improve the procurement:-

(i) MSP of Rs.1080/- and 1110/- per quintal of common and Grade 'A' paddy has been fixed for crop year 2011-12, which is being procured in KMS 2011-12. MSP of Rs.1120/- per quintal for wheat was fixed for RMS 2010-11. Further, a bonus of Rs.50/- per quintal was allowed over and above the MSP of wheat. MSP of Rs.1285/- per quintal of wheat has been fixed for wheat of crop 2011-12, which will be procured in RMS 2012-13.

(ii) Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened for procurement of paddy/rice and wheat.

(iii) Commission charges at the rate of 2.5% for paddy and 2% for wheat have been allowed to cooperative societies and self help groups to enhance the reach of MSP operations to small and marginal farmers.

(iv) Instructions have been issued to FCI and states to open procurement centres at locations convenient to farmers where they could bring their produce for government procurement.