

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4343
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
FOOD SECURITY
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the food security situation in the country has been affected due to rising prices and shortage of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the production and demand of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether private companies have procured huge quantity of foodgrains in the country by paying prices higher than the support price fixed by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard indicating the procurement made by the private and the Government agencies during the said period?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): No Madam. The production of wheat has been higher than its demand in the country. The demand and production scenario of foodgrains (wheat and rice) during the last three years and current year is at Annexure-I.
- (c) & (d): The procurement of wheat and rice is open ended under which the foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications are bought by FCI and State Agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to Government Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. The details of quantities of wheat and rice procured by government agencies during the last three years and current year are at Annexure-II.