

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5224
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to simplify the procedure for procurement of agricultural commodities from the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The Government offers to procure agricultural commodities covered under Minimum Support Price Scheme at MSP. The farmers are, however, free to sell in the open market, if the market offers a higher price. Procurement of agricultural commodities at MSP is undertaken by the Central, State and Cooperative agencies. The Scheme of Decentralized procurement of foodgrains was introduced in 1997-98 to effect savings in the form of reduction in the outgo of food subsidy and encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent there by extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers. Under the scheme, the State Government itself undertakes direct purchase of foodgrains on behalf of Government of India.