

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2678
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
PROCUREMENT OF MAIZE
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) the present policy of the Government regarding procurement of foodgrains;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to purchase maize on the lines of wheat/rice;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): As per the existing procurement policy, the Central Government extends price support to paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Wheat and paddy conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at the MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(b), (c) & (d): Procurement of coarsegrains including maize is being undertaken by State Governments and their agencies under MSP operations. The State Governments retain the quantity procured to the extent of their requirement for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the balance is disposed of by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through tender.