

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:742
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) the present stock of foodgrains available with the Government;
- (b) the details of the difficulties being faced by the Government during the process of procuring foodgrains from farmers;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review/change the policy of procurement of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to put a cap on foodgrains procurement for the Public Distribution System also; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The total quantity of foodgrains available in Central Pool as on 01.11.2012 is given below:

S.No.	Food Grain	Quantity (in lakh tons)
1.	Rice	289.54
2.	Wheat	405.75
	Total	695.29

(b): Procurement of foodgrains is done through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Major constraints in procurement from farmers in some of the States are lack of regulated mandies, lack of basic amenities at the procurement centers, absence of dedicated State procurement agencies, shortage of storage space and lack of adequate staff.

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

There is no proposal to review the existing procurement policy.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e): No, Madam.

(f): Does not arise in view of (e) above.