

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:410
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
PROCUREMENT OF RICE
Antony Shri Anto;Deka Shri Ramen

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken procurement of rice from various States including Assam through the Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of rice procured by FCI during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative price of rice to the farmers?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) A statement indicating the quantum of rice procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for the Central Pool during the last two years and current year is at Annexure-I.

(d) Before each Rabi / Kharif Crop season, Government of India announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), based on the recommendations of the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which takes into consideration the cost of various agricultural inputs and the reasonable margin for the farmers for their produce. To ensure that the farmers receive MSP for their produce, Food Corporation of India (FCI) in consultation with State Governments operates sufficient number of purchase centres. The State Governments have been instructed to engage Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Societies etc. who can have better reach in the procurement areas leading to higher levels of procurement. To ensure that the benefit of MSP reaches the farmers, the field units of FCI have been directed to make payments through account payee cheques/ electronic mode, wherever possible. In order to spread awareness regarding MSP operations, wide publicity is given through pamphlets, banners, sign boards and advertisements through print & electronic media regarding MSP, quality specifications, purchase system, etc.