

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) the total quantum of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other Central and State agencies during each of the last three years and the current year along with the manner in which co-ordination is being maintained between the different agencies involved in the process, State and agency-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to create awareness about the procurement process amongst the farmers to provide them the benefits of Minimum Support Price (MSP); and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved therein?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 209 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The total quantum of wheat, rice and coarse grains procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other Central and State Agencies for the Central Pool during each of the last three years and the current year are at Annex I, II and III respectively.

In order to maintain coordination between different agencies in each of the States and to maximize the outreach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, before the beginning of every procurement season, meetings are conducted at various levels between FCI, State Agencies and the State Administration. During these meetings macro-level issues like locations for purchase centres, sharing of purchase centres amongst the Agencies, infrastructure provisioning in the purchase centres, storage arrangements etc. are reviewed and decided. Similar meetings are held at the level of State heads of the Agencies also to arrive at a micro-level picture. Detailed planning is done with regard to each & every aspect of procurement and adequate care is taken to ensure that necessary arrangements are in place well before the on-set of the season.

During the procurement season, constant monitoring is done at the level of District Heads, as well as State Heads of the respective Agencies in association with concerned officers of State Administration to ensure that the procurement season progresses smoothly. All issues emanated during the process of procurement are addressed with an objective to ensure that no farmer is put to distress.

Similar pattern is adopted in every State which follow Decentralised Procurement (DCP) mode where the role of FCI is limited to taking over of surplus stocks, if any, from the State Agencies. A statement indicating details of the Agencies involved in procurement (State-wise) is at Annex-IV.

(b) & (c): Steps taken by Government to create awareness about the procurement process amongst the farmers to provide them the benefits of Minimum Support Price (MSP) are as under:

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced well ahead of the start of the crop year; and
2. To spread the awareness, MSP operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, sign boards and print & electronic media every year.
3. In order to maximise the outreach of MSP operations, State Government operates sufficient number of purchase centres;
4. To ensure that the benefit of MSP reaches the farmers, the field units have been directed to make payments through account payee cheque/ electronic mode, wherever possible.

As a result of these measures, there has been a substantial increase in the procurement of wheat and rice in the successive years.