

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1304

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

FOODGRAIN OUTPUT

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

- (a) whether the procurement of foodgrains including wheat during the current year was less than the target fixed for the year and also the procurement during the previous year due to aggressive procurement by the private traders at higher prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the targets fixed and actual procurement during the previous year and the current year;
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has made adequate arrangement for proper and safe storage of foodgrains; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. There have been reports that procurement by private traders and other agencies have been above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government of India. The details of the procurement of foodgrains against the estimates made are given as under:-

Fig. in LMT, as on 07.08.2013
Wheat
2012-13 2013-14
Estimated Actual Estimated Actual
procurement Procurement procurement Procurement
318.00 381.48 441.21 250.92

Fig. in LMT, as on 07.08.2013
Rice
2011-12 2012-13
Estimated Actual Estimated Actual
procurement Procurement procurement Procurement

353.15 350.41 401.31 338.84

The Food Corporation of India and the State Agencies intervene in the market only if the farmers do not get prices at the level of MSP or above. There is no bar on the private sector entering the market when the foodgrains are coming to the Mandi after harvesting.

(d) & (e): In addition to creating additional covered scientific storage capacity under plan scheme, the Government has also formulated a scheme called Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of covered storage capacity through Private Entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

For proper and safe storage of foodgrains, following precautionary and remedial steps have been mandated to be followed by F.C.I. and State Government agencies to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

(i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.

(ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.

(iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor.

- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low- density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.