

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1307

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

PROCUREMENT BY FCI

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

- (a) whether the present procurement policy is heavily concentrated on procurement of wheat, paddy and rice through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in spite of announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for over two dozen commodities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the MSP of various commodities declared and the quantum of foodgrains and other items procured during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the procurement policy encourages production of only these two commodities for which the country has a huge buffer stock at the cost of production of other commodities including pulses and oil seeds which continue to be imported in large quantities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address the problem; and
- (e) whether some States have requested/urged the Union Government to initiate procurement of other items for which MSP is declared by the Government and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): It is true that the Government announces support price for over two dozen agricultural commodities and procurement of wheat and paddy through FCI and State Agencies is more compared to other commodities. However, Government is giving more emphasis on the price support to the farmers of pulses and oilseeds crops compared to the wheat and paddy, as is evident from the fact that while from 2008-09 to 2012-13, the MSP of paddy (common) has increased from Rs. 850 per quintal (plus Rs. 50 per quintal additional incentive tax) to Rs. 1250 per quintal, paddy Grade `A` from Rs. 880 per quintal (plus Rs. 50 per quintal additional incentive tax) to Rs. 1280 per quintal, the increase in MSP of coarse grains like Jowar in the same period has increased more i.e. from Rs. 840 per quintal to Rs.1500 per quintal for hybrid variety and from Rs.860 per quintal to Rs. 1520 per quintal for Maldandi variety and for Ragi from Rs. 915 per quintal to Rs. 1500 per quintal. Similarly, the Government has made substantial increase in the MSP of foodgrains like pulses during the same period, as evident from the increased in the case of Arhar from Rs. 2000 per quintal to Rs. 3850 per quintal, Moong from Rs. 2520 per quintal to Rs. 4400 per quintal, Urad from Rs. 520 per quintal to Rs. 4300, Gram from Rs. 1730 per quintal to Rs. 3000 per quintal and Masur from Rs. 1870 per quintal to Rs. 2900 per quintal. The increase in the case of oilseeds commodities in the same period is also substantial as in the case of Groundnut from Rs. 2100 per quintal to Rs. 3700 per quintal, Sunflower Seed from Rs. 2215 per quintal to Rs. 3700 per quintal, Sesamum from Rs. 2700 per quintal to Rs. 4200 per quintal, Rapeseed / Mustard from Rs. 1830 per quintal to Rs. 3000 per quintal and Sunflower from Rs. 1650 per quintal to Rs. 2800 per quintal and milling Copra from Rs. 3660 per quintal to Rs. 5100 per quintal. In recent years, Government has taken several steps under the National Food Security Mission and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to encourage farmers to produce more of these commodities. No proposal from any of states has been received for initiating the procurement of these items so far during the current marketing season.