

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2981

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS .

Ajay Kumar SHRI ;Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) whether the pace of procurement of foodgrains including wheat by the Food Corporation of India and State agencies during the current year has progressed as per the estimates of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure procurement of adequate quantity of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The estimates for procurement of wheat and rice are made in consultation with State Governments before commencement of Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS). All arrangement for procurement of wheat and rice brought to the procurement centres by the seller are made in advance. For KMS 2012-13, an estimate of procurement of 401.31 lakh ton of rice and for RMS 2013-14, an estimate of 441.21 lakh ton of wheat was made. However, a quantity of 339.29 lakh ton of rice and 250.91 lakh ton of wheat has been procured upto 22.08.2013. The State-wise details of the estimates and the quantity of wheat and rice procured are annexed.

The reason for low procurement of wheat and rice during the respective marketing season have been higher market rates of wheat in various States than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) offered by the Government and low yield of wheat in States of Haryana and Punjab and that of rice in four South Indian States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as compared to last year.

(c): Various steps have been taken by the Government to ensure procurement of adequate quantity of foodgrains which, inter-alia, include the following:-

(i) Wide publicity of the specifications such as acceptable moisture contents, foreign matters etc. so that farmers may bring their produce accordingly and may not face any difficulty after bringing their produce at purchase centres. Handbills / pamphlets are also distributed to farmers for their awareness.

(ii) At purchase centres/mandis necessary facility for cleaning and weighing are provided, arrangement of moisture meters and gunnies are made so that prompt acceptance of farmer's produce can be ensured.

(iii) In States like MP, where the farmers and cooperative societies are registered, the information about date and time for bringing the produce at the centre are given through SMS.

(iv) Besides regulated mandis, temporary procurement centres are also opened to facilitate easy approach of farmers to MSP operations.

(v) It is ensured that payment is made to the farmers within 48 hours of sale of their produce.

(vi) The purchase centres are kept operational upto the last date of the procurement season decided by GOI in consultation with the State Govt.

(vii) FCI ensures that there should not be any fund crisis for the open ended procurement i.e, upto the last grains arrived at purchase centres are purchased .