

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3936  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
FOODGRAIN PROCUREMENT POLICY  
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) the extant policy governing procurement of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to include maize for procurement on the lines of wheat and rice; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) and (c) The extant foodgrain policy is procurement of foodgrains from farmers at remunerative prices, distribution of foodgrains to consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections of society at affordable prices and maintenance of buffer stock for food security and price stability. The Central Government extends price support to paddy, wheat and coarse grains through the FCI and State Agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to Food Corporation of India/State Agencies at the MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Maize is already included under the Price Support Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and is being procured by the State Agencies on behalf of FCI.