

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3466

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017

Eroding of Food Security

Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Siddeshwara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the food security situation in the country is eroding on account of increasing shortage of foodgrains and other food items and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of production, procurement, demand and supply of foodgrains during the last three years;
- (c) whether the private companies procure foodgrains directly from the farmers at prices higher than those fixed by the Government for procurement through its agencies and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the quantum of foodgrains procured by the said companies along with the rates at which the said procurement has been done during the said period, yearwise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide food security to farmers in drought hit regions during the last two years and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): There is no shortage of foodgrains to implement the food security in the country under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 01.07.2017 is 53.32 million tons, against the buffer norms of 41.12 million tons to meet the demand of foodgrains for the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

...2/-

...2...

(b): Foodgrains are procured by the Government from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP), which is used for supply/ allocation to States/UTs for distribution under the PDS as per the coverage determined for each State/UT and per person/family foodgrain entitlement under the NFSA, and other food based schemes. Details of production and procurement of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) and allocation to States/UTs under PDS, other welfare schemes, festivals, calamity relief etc. are as under.

(Figures in million tons)

Crop Year

Production

Procurement

Total allocation of foodgrains

2014-15

192.01

60.12

61.45

2015-16

196.70

57.18

61.10

2016-17

206.59

(3rd advance estimates)

69.55

62.89

* Procurement of wheat as on 20.07.2017 and procurement of rice as on 02.08.2017.

Note: Year-wise total procurement includes procurement of wheat which relates to Rabi Marketing Season (April-March) for the year following the crop year.

(c)&(d): The Central Government extends price support to paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Procurement Agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers however have the option to sell their produce to Government Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Information regarding private purchase of foodgrains is not maintained.

(e): Based on the request from the concerned State Government, additional allocation has been made to the drought affected States.
