

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4052  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

4052. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has consulted the State Governments on the issues of procurement and storage of wheat, condition of international market as well as the countries' import and export of wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the farmers are likely to face difficulty in getting fair price for their wheat with the import of wheat in domestic market; and
- (d) whether the Government is likely to formulate any effective policy to discourage import of wheat in view of the adequate stock of wheat in the country?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

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(a) & (b): Before the onset of procurement season for wheat i.e. Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2018-19, a meeting on 15.02.2018 with Food Secretaries of the States was convened at the level of Ministry to decide the estimates of wheat procurement, storage facility and other issues. Based on production, expected procurement, marketable surplus in the catchment area, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage, and transportation etc., the estimate of wheat procurement and number of procurement centres to be opened are decided mutually by various State Governments/its procurement agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI). Large numbers of temporary purchase centres are also established for the convenience of the farmers.

Union Government reviews the storage requirement of states in consultation with State Government periodically

(c): There exists a transparent and Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever wheat is offered by farmers within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, is purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government Agencies including FCI, for Central Pool.

(d): There has been no import of wheat for Central Pool since 2008-09. The import of wheat is regulated through change of import duty from time to time. At present issues regarding change of import duty on agricultural commodities are discussed in the Inter Ministerial Committee to review the price of agricultural commodities and based on their recommendations the proposals are moved by the concerned Department. In 2017, Import duty has been imposed @10% w.e.f. 28.03.2017 and then raised to 20% w.e.f. 08.11.2017 on the proposal initiated by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

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