

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4389
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd MARCH, 2021**

PROCUREMENT BY PRIVATE PLAYERS

4389. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether the Government remains lackadaisical about implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procurement of the agricultural produces of the farmers owing to which the produces of farmers are procured by private players at a rate lower than the MSP fixed by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to formulate any policy for private players to procure the crops of farmers at the fixed MSP rate;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any official guideline currently exists for the private players to buy farmers' crops or are they free to act at their discretion; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

(a) to (f): Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced by the Government every year before start of each marketing season(Kharif /Rabi). The procurement policy of Government of India (GOI) is open ended, under which paddy and wheat offered by farmers within the stipulated period (conforming to specifications prescribed in advance by GOI) are purchased for Central Pool at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by Food Corporation of India/ State Governments/ State Government Agencies, to help farmers get remunerative price and prevent distress sale. However, if any producer/ farmers get better price in comparison to MSP, he/she is free to sell his/her produce in open market.

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Coarsegrains are procured at MSP by State Governments as per the procurement plan prepared in consultation with FCI and approved by the Central Government, subject to its distribution by the State Government under National Food Security Act (NFSA)/ Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

In order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS) has been launched under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA). Under this scheme, oilseeds producing states will have the option to roll out PPSS on pilot basis in district/selected Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) of district involving the participation of private stockist. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing the PPSS scheme for procurement of oilseeds.
