

BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.

- (x) Suspension of Futures trading in rice, urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission continues.
- (xi) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar was decreased from 20 to 10% for 2011-12 sugar season.
- (xii) A quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice has been allowed under OMSS retail sale scheme and 15 lakh tonnes of wheat has been allowed for bulk sale, including sale to small traders for the period October, 2011 to September, 2012.
- (xiii) In order to encourage more lifting under OMSS retail and bulk schemes, it was decided to reduce prices under OMSS for both bulk sale and retail sale. For the year 2011-12 (October 2011 to September 2012) price of wheat and rice for retail sale under OMSS scheme to State/UT Government were fixed uniformly at MSP for the previous year and no freight charges have been levied. Similarly, for sale of wheat through tender to bulk consumers, price was fixed at MSP in wheat procuring States, while in other States only 50% of freight charges have been levied.
- (xiv) An additional *ad hoc* allocation of 123.68 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat have been made so far comprising following allocations:
 - (i) 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to BPL families in May, 2011 for distribution upto March, 2012.
 - (ii) 50 lakh tonnes to APL families in June, 2011 for distribution upto March 2012, thereby increasing the monthly APL allocation to 15 kg-35 kg per family per month.
 - (iii) 23.68 lakh tonnes of foodgrains allocated during July, 2011 to February, 2012 to 174 poorest/backward districts in 27 States (as per Supreme Court's orders).
- (xv) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month.
- (xvi) Extended the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month.

Payment to farmers for procurement

482. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has tried to press Punjab and Haryana

Governments to make direct payments to farmers for cereals procured for the Central pool;

(b) as the Central Government payments to farmers being routed through middlemen, whether they force farmers to settle their dues first before realising payments; and

(c) the steps afoot to stop their exploiting role at the Central Government level and whether there is any Bill in this regard pending in the Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not issued any such instruction.

(b) No such reports have been received by the Government.

(c) No, Sir. No such Bill in this regard is pending with Lok Sabha. Steps taken by Government of India to ensure payment of MSP to farmers is given in Statement

Statement

1. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened by FCI/State Governments agencies in mutual consultation before onset of procurement season, keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the State concerned. Review is made from time to time on the need for additional procurement centres, if any, during the procurement season and required additional procurement centres are also opened.
2. Before the start of every marketing season, Department of Food and Public Distribution convenes a meeting of State food secretaries, Food Corporation of India and other stake holders to prepare a detailed action plan for making the arrangements of procurement in the coming marketing season. Details of number of procurement centres to be opened and arrangements like purchase of packaging material and storage space are discussed in the meeting.
3. The Commission charges for procurement by cooperative societies and self help groups has been increased to 2.5% of Minimum Support Price (MSP) since 2009-10 to encourage procurement from small and marginal farmers especially in states where marketing infrastructure is not well developed. This measure will increase the reach of MSP to farmers particularly for small and marginal farmers.
4. State Governments are encouraged to adopt Decentralised procurement (DCP) system of procurement so as to maximize procurement and increase the reach of MSP operations. Under this system, State governments undertake procurement and distribution of food grains by

themselves. Procured quantities in excess of State's requirement is taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere, while shortfall is met from the Central Pool. The DCP system was introduced in the year 1997. Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Madhya Pradesh are DCP States for paddy/Rice and Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are DCP State for Wheat.

5. Instructions have been issued to FCI and states to open procurement centres at locations convenient to farmers where they could bring their produce for government procurement.
6. The MSP for wheat in RMS 2009-10 was fixed at Rs. 1080 per quintal, which resulted in a record procurement of 253.82 lakh tonnes in RMS 2009-10. The MSP of wheat was fixed at Rs. 1100 per quintal and the procurement of wheat in RMS 2010-11 was 225.14 lakh tonnes. In RMS 2011-12, the Government had announced the MSP of wheat as Rs. 1120 per quintal. In addition, a bonus of Rs.50 was also approved, which resulted in procurement of 283.35 lakh tonnes of wheat, which is a record procurement. The MSP of wheat for RMS 2012-13 has been further enhanced to Rs. 1285 per quintal.
7. In KMS 2009-10, the MSP of Rs.950 and Rs.980 per quintal was fixed for Common and grade 'A' variety of paddy, respectively. In addition, the Government had also allowed a bonus of Rs.50 per quintal on both varieties of paddy during KMS 2009-10. A total of 320.34 lakh tonnes of rice was procured during KMS 2009-10. For KMS 2010-11, MSP of Rs.1000 and 1030 per quintal for Common and Grade 'A' variety of paddy was fixed. The procurement of rice in KMS 2010-11 is 341.80 lakh tonnes. The MSP of Paddy for common and Grade 'A' variety of Paddy was further enhanced to Rs. 1080 and Rs. 1110 per quintal respectively for KMS 2011-12. The estimated procurement of rice in KMS 2011-12 is 353 lakh tonnes.
8. The State Governments have been requested to issue instructions for recording correct market arrivals and ensuring imposition of at least 50% compulsory levy on rice millers.

SC/ST quota for ration shops

†483. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SC/ST quota has been determined for allocation of ration shops;
- (b) if so, whether the ration shops have been allocated to the persons belonging to SC/ST in every State, as per the determined quota; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.