

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) latest report No. 540 on Nutritional Intake in India based on 66th round of NSS survey (July 2009-June 2010), at all India level, about 19.4% of the rural households and 20.5% of urban households had a calorie intake of less than 2160 kilo calories per day in 2009-10. Further analysis of data reveals that in the bottom 10% of the population ranked by monthly per capita consumer expenditure, the similar figures for rural and urban households were 62.3% and 63.3% respectively.

(c) to (e) The Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand (1979) of the Planning Commission defined the poverty line as per capita per month consumption expenditure level which corresponded to a basket of goods and services yielding per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural and 2100 kcal in urban areas. It used the age sex activity specific calorie allowances recommended by the Nutrition Expert Group (1968) to estimate the average daily per capita requirement for rural and urban areas using the age-sex-occupational structure of their respective population.

The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. An Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar recommended monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs. 579 for urban areas as the poverty line at 2004-05 prices, which was accepted by the Planning Commission. The Tendulkar Committee, which submitted its Report in 2009, has incorporated adequacy of expenditure from the normative and nutritional viewpoint.

The reduction in the calorie intake as reported by the NSSO may be on account of change in consumption pattern and change in life style. Tendulkar Committee moved away from calorie based anchoring of poverty line. While moving away from the calorie norms, the poverty lines have been validated by checking the adequacy of actual private expenditure per capita near the poverty lines on food, education and health by comparing them with normative expenditures consistent with nutritional, educational and health outcomes.

#### **Procurement of wheat**

2661. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wheat procurement during the rabi marketing season is good;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years;

- (c) the present position thereof; and  
 (d) the future action plan prepared for the remaining current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The wheat procurement during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13 is estimated at 318 lakh tonnes. As on 23.4.2012, 102.54 lakh tonnes of wheat has already been procured compared to 87.65 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. State- wise details of wheat procurement for the last three years are given in Statement-I (See below).

(d) Steps taken to ensure procurement of wheat as per estimates for RMS 2012-13 are given in Statement-II (See below).

**Statement-I**

*Procurement of wheat by Government Agencies during last 3 years.*

		(in lakh tonnes)		
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*
1.	Punjab	102.09	109.57	26.21
2.	Haryana	63.47	69.28	37.99
3.	Uttar Pradesh	16.45	34.61	2.11
4.	Madhya Pradesh	35.38	49.65	33.26
5.	Bihar	1.83	5.56	0
6.	Rajasthan	4.76	13.03	2.08
7.	Uttarakhand	0.86	0.42	0.17
8.	Chandigarh	0.09	0.07	0.07
9.	Delhi	0.10	0.08	0.05
10.	Gujarat	0.01	1.05	0.55
11.	Jharkhand	Negligible	-	0
12.	Maharashtra		-	0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Negligible	Negligible	0
14.	Jammu and Kashmir		-	0
15.	West Bengal	0.09	-	0
TOTAL		225.14	283.34	102.54

\* As on 23.4.2012

***Statement-II****Steps taken to ensure procurement of wheat*

1. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened by FCI/State Government agencies in mutual consultation 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. A meeting was similarly convened to discuss the procurement arrangements during RMS 2012-13 and necessary instructions in this regard were issued.

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 maximise 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, Odisha, 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.