

Wheat procurement target

1631. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with private players aggressively buying wheat directly from farmers, Government has revised the procurement target downwards by 25 per cent to 33 million metric tonne for the marketing year 2013-14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said move will help Government to save about Rs. 3,000 crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF.K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Under the current Price Support system, the procurement of wheat is open-ended and no target for its procurement are fixed by the Government. However, based on the inputs received from the States, the estimate of procurement of wheat is made before commencement of the marketing season. For the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2013-14, against a projected estimate of procurement of 441.21 lakh tons, the procurement is now estimated to be around 251 lakh tons only.

(c) and (d) The lesser procurement of wheat during RMS 2013-14 is likely to result in reduced financial burden on the Government. However, no estimation of saving on account of reduced procurement has been made by the Government.

Foodgrains allocation under PDS as per latest census on BPL families

1632. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to ensure foodgrains allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) as per the latest census on BPL families; and