

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:526  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
PROCUREMENT OF MINOR CROPS  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government procures minor crops including millets, small grains etc. from the farmers in the poorest and most backward districts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total quantum procured during the last three years;
- (c) the portion of the said quantum distributed under Public Distribution System and other programmes for employment generation;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made regarding the adverse impact of distribution of wheat and rice on the demand of those minor crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI SHARAD PAWAR )

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 526 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.05.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): As per existing policy of Government coarsegrains (maize, bajra, ragi, jowar and barley), for which the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed for each marketing season, are being procured by the State Government's under price support operations. The State Governments are making arrangements for procurement of coarsegrains by opening purchase centres with required manpower, infrastructure and facilities for making payments to farmers. The quantity of coarsegrains procured during KMS 2003-04 to KMS 2005-06 is as follows:-

KMS	Quantity in lakh MT
2003-04	6.51
2004-05	8.27
2005-06	10.66

As on 15.5.2006

(c): A statement showing the details of lifting of coarsegrains allocated to States out of stocks procured during the last 3 years is at Annexure.

(d) & (e): A survey undertaken by the NSSO shows a large decline in cereals consumption from 50 kilogram per capita per annum (kpca) in 1972-73 to 25 kpca in 1999-2000 occurring across all income classes and in a regionally widespread manner. The High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy in its Report submitted in July, 2002 noted that due to change in dietary patterns in the past years consumption of coarse cereals has declined in favour of wheat and rice. Simultaneously the use of coarse cereals for purposes other than human consumption like poultry/animal feed and industrial use etc. has increased.