

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:532

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006

IMPORT OF WHEAT

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains particularly wheat procured so far during the current season, State-wise;
- (b) whether the quantity of wheat estimated to be procured is likely to be less this year;
- (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the procurement;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to import additional quantity of foodgrains including wheat to bridge the shortfall over and above the five lakh tonnes of wheat already imported;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether some countries have requested the Government to relax the conditions for the import; and
- (h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 532 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.05.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): State-wise procurement of foodgrains including wheat (in RMS 2006-07 and KMS 2005-06) is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The quantity of wheat likely to be procured in the Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 is 95 lakh tonnes. Procurement of wheat has been low due to lower than the initially projected production, high ruling market prices, more aggressive purchase by the private sector and market arrivals of wheat are significantly lower than the last year.

(d): In order to increase procurement the Government of India has announced an incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per qtl. for procurement of wheat over the MSP of Rs. 650.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. The Government has taken a decision on 22.4.2006 to import additional 30 lakh tonnes of wheat through STC over and above the 5 lakh tonnes of wheat already being imported.

(g) & (h): In view of the representations received from a few countries and from several trading companies, and to ensure wider participation, tender specifications have been amended in the tender floated by the STC for 30 lakhs tonnes on 8.5.2006. The changes primarily relate to moisture limits, test weight, testing and analysis methods, and phytosanitary parameters.