

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:92
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
FOOD POLICY
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has initiated steps to formulate a comprehensive food policy in view of instability in production of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): The Government has a comprehensive food policy under which Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations are carried out by the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India and State agencies) in districts all over the country where there is marketable surplus of foodgrains. Farmers have the option to sell their produce at MSP or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. This policy ensures that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. This also enables the Government to procure foodgrains for servicing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes. Maintenance of a buffer stock of foodgrains to ensure food security is also one of the important objective of food policy.