

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5251
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2000
ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS OF KARNATAKA
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether a delegation from Karnataka alongwith its Chief Minister met him and pleaded to help the farmers of Karnataka who have been facing hardships due to the crash in price of agricultural products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide all help and assistance to the State Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether all the foodgrains have been procured from the farmers of Karnataka; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d) : A delegation from Karnataka led by the Chief Minister met the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 28th November, 2000, and requested for relaxing the specification of maize and to step up procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the State so that the farmers could get a remunerative price.

In order to reduce the hardship of the farmers and to avoid distress sale of maize, the Government has relaxed the specifications and decided to procure maize in Karnataka with :

- (i) damaged grains upto a maximum of 2% instead of 1.5% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut over 1.5%.
 - (ii) slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains upto a maximum limit of 6% instead of 4.5% provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 4.5%.
- (e) & (f) : The FCI has procured the following quantity of foodgrains in Karnataka during the current Kharif Marketing Season as on 16th December, 2000 :

- (i) Maize - 36,000 MT
- (ii) Rice - 25,690 MT
- (iii) Paddy - 204 MT