

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:123
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
RELIEF WORK IN GUJARAT
RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV);S. SAIDUZZAMAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been nowhere in the frontline in the matter of providing foodgrains and other food items to the earthquake affected people of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the details of work done by the Ministry for providing relief after the earthquake;
- (d) whether the Government have worked out any concrete plan for providing foodgrains to the affected people, now that the rail and road links have been re-established;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government have any plan to procure potatoes, which are rotting in Uttar Pradesh and send the same to Gujarat and scarcity States in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details of the plan, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 123 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 02.03.2001.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c),(d) & (e) : The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has taken the following action to provide relief to the people of Gujarat affected by the recent earthquake:

(i) One lakh tonnes of foodgrains (80,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of rice) have been allotted to the Government of Gujarat for distribution to the affected people. Ready-to-eat food packets were also air lifted to Gujarat on January 27, 28 and 29, 2001.

(ii) Advance release of 10,000 tonnes of levy sugar has been made in favour of the State Government.

(iii) The State Government has been permitted to lift cattle feed available in FCI godowns, free of cost, for providing relief to the cattle in the areas affected by the earthquake.

(iv) A sum of Rs.5 crores has been contributed by the Undertakings under the Ministry to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The employees of the Ministry are also donating one day's salary.

The situation is being regularly monitored with a view to providing further relief to the State.

(f) & (g) : The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of important horticultural items, the prices of which tend to fall below economic level and the farmers have to resort to distress sales. A State Government is required to make a written request to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in case it wants that Department to implement the MIS for a particular horticultural commodity. During the current financial year 2000-2001 no proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for procurement of potatoes under the MIS has been received.