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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2029
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001
ASSISTANCE TO MAIZE FARMERS OF KARNATAKA
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

(a) whether the maize growing farmers of the Karnataka State have not been provided any assistance to fall in open marked prices under Rs.100 crore revolving fund for market intervention;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India was allowed by the Union Government to lift maize stocks following relaxation of the norms regarding moisture content and discolouration has not so far implemented the decision of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the maize growing farmers of Karnataka State are still struggling to get the assistance from both State and the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) : In order to reduce hardship of the farmers of Karnataka and to avoid distress sale of maize, the Government has allowed relaxation in uniform (FAQ) specifications of maize in respect of damaged grains as well as slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001. However, no relaxation in moisture content has been allowed.

The Government of Karnataka have provided assistance to the farmers by creating a revolving fund of Rs. 100 crores to undertake market intervention activities in those crops which are not covered under the minimum support price programme .

As a result of the measures taken by the Government a quantity of 1.97 Lakh tonnes of maize has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies as on 5th March 2001 as against no quantity procured during the corresponding period of the Kharif Marketing Season 1999 -2000.