

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1039

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SAHIB SINGH VERMA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBAJIRAO SHINDE

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

- (a) whether the Union Government had decided to shift the responsibility of procuring foodgrains and distribution from the Food Corporation of India to the State Governments;
- (b) if so, whether the number of Chief Ministers have opposed this move;
- (c) if so, the main reasons mentioned by them;
- (d) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide assistance to the States to develop infrastructure;
- (e) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;
- (f) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide special aid to those states facing the problem created by surplus production of foodgrains; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b)&(c): The issue of decentralization of procurement of foodgrains was discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports on 6.7.2001. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralised procurement due to various reasons such as, lack of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh expressed that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out. In the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. The scheme of decentralized procurement has already been adopted by UP for wheat and rice, by West Bengal for rice and by MP for wheat.

(d): No, Sir. However, Govt. proposes that existing godowns of FCI, CWC, SWC etc. can be made available to State Govts. for storage of foodgrains. Part of the manpower requirements can be met by taking persons on deputation from FCI. Training can be imparted to Quality Control Officers and other staff of the State Government by the officials of FCI and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

(e): The Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports in its meeting held on 6.7.2001 decided that further consultation could be held with the State Governments, and sharing of gains under the schemes would be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

(f)&(g): No, Sir. However, FCI will continue to procure wheat and paddy/rice under the price support scheme of the Government from the States having surplus production of foodgrains.