

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4262
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
STRENGTHING OF FOODGRAIN EXPORT
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government are exploring new strategies to strengthen the foodgrain export market through a variety of grant/credits, etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any team has been sent abroad to find markets and negotiate contractors for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the result of such visits; and
- (e) the agreements signed for exports of foodgrains by such teams?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Government has taken various steps to promote export of foodgrains:-

- (1) Rice & Wheat are being offered for export from the Central Pool;
- (2) Government also proposes to reimburse post delivery expenses permissible within the framework of WTO requirements;
- (3) Exporters have been given the option of selecting stocks from depots of their choice;
- (4) An Empowered Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F&PD) has been setup to take expeditious decisions on matters relating to exports;
- (5) Prices of wheat & rice offered from the Central Pool for export are fixed for a period of three months and announced 45 days in advance to facilitate international negotiations for exports.

(c),(d)&(e): So far no team from the Government has gone to explore export markets and negotiate for export contracts. However, PSUs engaged in export of foodgrains pursue export market opportunities regularly.