

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5907
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
PROCUREMENT OF COARSE CEREALS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether FCI's role is confined to procurement of major cereals for Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, whether procurement of coarse cereals rests with the concerned State Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Agriculture to entrust this tasks of procurement of coarse cereals through NAFED; and
- (e) if so, the alternate arrangements made for procurement of coarse cereals which are in plenty in some States?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): The present practice being followed for procurement and disposal of coarse grains is as under:-

- i) the State Governments/Agencies procure the food grains at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on behalf of the FCI/Government of India;
- ii) the State Governments retain the quantity procured to the extent of their requirement for the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the balance is disposed off by FCI on `as is where is basis` by open auction/tender; and
- iii) the difference between the economic cost and disposal/issue price is paid as subsidy to the State Government.

(d): Yes, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture was not in a position to agree to the request of this Department due to managerial and financial constraints.

(e): The existing arrangements as detailed in the reply to parts (b) and (c) above are being continued.