

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
DE-CENTRALISED PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether cases of irregularities in the procurement of foodgrains on behalf of the Food Corporation of India have been reported from certain States including Punjab under the de-centralised procurement schemes in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revise the norms for de-centralised procurement and blacklist the agencies involved in such irregularities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.34 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27-07-2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): The procurement of foodgrains is taken up by FCI and State Governments through their agencies for Central Pool. Some of the States procure under Decentralised Procurement System (DCP) wherein they procure on behalf of Central Pool and after keeping the requirement meant for Targeted Public Distribution System, deposit the balance in the Central Pool. Under the DCP system, 5 States are procuring wheat and 9 States are procuring paddy/rice through its agencies. The State Government of Punjab has not opted for DCP scheme. The State Government of Punjab through its agencies procures foodgrains on behalf of FCI for Central Pool. On 24-06-2010, as per FCI, 244 bags, out of wheat procured by PUNSUP, a Punjab State Government Agency, were found having mud slabs and damaged wheat. FCI has further informed that State Govt. has already placed 3 officials of PUNSUP under suspension. Dy. Commissioner Ferozepur has constituted a three member committee for investigation.

Beside above, 760 bags were found to contain inferior quality foodgrains out of 50,000 bags, procured directly from mandies on behalf of PUNSUP, MARKFED and PSWC, proposed to be despatched to Kerala Region in April, 2010. The above 760 bags were containing 49% to 55.20% inorganic matter. An amount of Rs. 1.05 Lakh has been recovered on this account.

Both these matters are under investigation and punitive action will be initiated against those found responsible.

(c) & (d): Under the Decentralised Procurement System, stringent norms have been prescribed for procurement and the State Government concerned, through its agencies, is responsible for procurement of foodgrains as per specifications issued by Central Government.