

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

Lingam Shri P.;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Panda Shri Prabodh;Patel Shri R.K. Singh;Vyas Dr.(Kum.) Girija

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

- (a) whether the procurement of wheat during the current year have been lower than the targets/estimates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to procure wheat at market price to meet the requirement for the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes;
- (d) if so, the details and the status of implementation of the said scheme;
- (e) whether a large quantum of procured wheat was soaked in rain;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard; and
- (g) the action taken against those held responsible for such negligence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Against the estimated procurement of 262.66 lakh tonnes of wheat as stated by the State Governments at the beginning of procurement season, 225.25 lakh tonnes wheat has been procured as on 28.7.2010 during Rabi Marketing Season 2010-11.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. The available stocks of wheat with the Government are sufficient to meet the requirement for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes.

(e) to (g) : Some of the foodgrains stocks kept in Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies got damaged by rains and floods during July, 2010 in U.P., Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. Details of FCI godowns and State Government agencies where the damaged took place is at Annexure. The FCI and State agencies take action as per the extant instructions and the laid down procedures when wheat get soaked in rain for any reason.

Damage to the foodgrain stocks at these FCI depots/storage centres of other agencies have taken place due to failure in taking required precautionary measures by concerned agencies except at Bani and Ismailabad in Haryana where the damage has been due to floods.

For dereliction of duty of FCI officers at Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj, FCI has initiated action including suspension of eight officers.