

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
PURCHASE OF WHEAT AND PADDY
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the purchase of wheat and paddy through middlemen is permissible in Haryana and Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to permit purchase through middlemen for small and medium farmers who are unable to bring their produce to the Government procurement centres;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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) to (c) : In Punjab and Haryana, the wheat and paddy are purchased through Arhtias in Mandis established by their respective Governments. The Arhtias are being paid the Commission charges as per the rates prescribed by the Govts. of Haryana and Punjab. In order to enhance the reach of MSP procurement to the small and marginal farmers, the Government has issued instructions to State Governments allowing commission for procurement of paddy and wheat through societies, Self-help Group and cooperative societies.

(d) to (f) : A request was received from Govt. of Uttar Pradesh that farmers may be given the option to sell their produce through Commission Agents. However, the State Government was asked to utilise Cooperative Societies and Self-Help Groups for procurement from small and marginal farmers instead of Commission Agents.