

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1178
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
PROCUREMENT CENTRES
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produces despite increase in production in the country, especially in backward and underdeveloped areas due to shortage of procurement centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of procurement centres likely to be opened in the country especially in Rajasthan during the ensuing procurement season; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): In order to provide remunerative prices to farmers, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices of food grains every year. Efforts are made by FCI and State Government procurement agencies to open as many procurement centers as may facilitate procurement of food grains from farmers in various states. The Government has also allowed commission charges to cooperative societies and self help groups for enhancing their reach to small and marginal farmers.
- (c): During Kharif Marketing Season 2010-11, around 13500 purchase centres are likely to be opened by FCI and State agencies in the country. During this season, 69 purchase centres are likely to be opened in Rajasthan.
- (d): Government of India has already fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and coarse grains to be procured during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2010-11. FCI and State agencies have been sensitized to open sufficient number of procurement centres and to make other required arrangements to undertake the procurement. In order to facilitate procurement of Bajra, some funds are also being released in advance to State Government of Rajasthan.