

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3086
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
PROCUREMENT OF RICE
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether the farmers of Middle and North Andaman were forced to sell their rice in the wholesale market for as little as 7 rupees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the quantum of rice procured by the forest corporation and Agriculture and Supply Department during 1998 to 2004 from Diglipur, Mayabunder and Rangat areas and the manner in which it was distributed under the Public Distribution System;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake procurement of rice again to protect the interest of farmers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any representation/ communication has been received from the public representatives of the region; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. As informed by FCI, it is not correct.

(c): FCI has informed that during the year 2003-2004, a quantity of 247.65 MT of rice was procured, as against the target of 1200 MT, under Decentralised Procurement. The procured stocks were handed over to Civil supplies & Consumer Affairs, Andaman Administration, who in turn issued the same through PDS. There was no procurement during the period 1998-2003.

(d) & (e): Any quantity of foodgrains, conforming to the quality specifications, as offered by farmers is procured by the procuring agencies. However, no specific proposal on procurement has been received so far from the Union Territory of A & N Islands.

(f) & (g): A letter dated 4th March, 2011 of Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, MP, has been received requesting procurement of Rice/paddy from the farmers of Rangat and Diglipur Tehsil of Andaman at Minimum Support price and has been referred to FCI for appropriate action.