

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:216

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

Jakhar Shri Badri Ram ;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding distress sale by farmers and their failure to secure Minimum Support Price (MSP) due to inadequate number of procurement centres opened during the recent procurement seasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of centres opened, foodgrains procured and the number of farmers benefitted during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether there are complaints regarding poor performance of the procurement agencies other than the Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to open adequate number of centres to ensure payment of MSP to the farmers during the ensuing seasons, Statewise?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): Government has not received such general complaint regarding distress sale by farmers and their failure to secure Minimum support Price(MSP) due to inadequate number of procurement centres during the recent procurement seasons. FCI and State Government/State Agencies before start of a procurement season decide on the number of procurement centres to be opened in an area depending on production, marketable surplus and potential for procurement.

Details of number of procurement centres opened for wheat and rice during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure I and II respectively. Details of procurement made of wheat and rice are at Annexure III & IV respectively.

(c)&(d): No such reports have been received.

(e): FCI and state agencies, in mutual consultations, open sufficient number of procurement centres keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the area. Moreover, during the middle of the season also, wherever it is felt, additional procurement centres are opened, so as to extend the benefit of MSP operations to maximum number of farmers. Commission charges at the rate of 2.5% for paddy and 2% for wheat have been allowed to cooperative societies and self help groups to enhance the reach of MSP operations to small and marginal farmers.