

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:82  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012  
DIRECT PROCUREMENT BY FCI  
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh;Badal Harsimrat Kaur

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

- (a) whether the decision of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to directly pay and procure from the farmers rather than middlemen has been strongly resented to by the commission agents in the country including Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether FCI has assessed its capacity to depute additional logistical support and manpower to pay and procure directly from farmers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 82 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a)& (b): In the states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan procurement is made by State agencies/Food Corporation of India(FCI) through commission agents (Arhatias) in accordance with statutory provisions of relevant Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts of these States. No such decision has, however been taken by FCI to procure foodgrains directly from farmers in these States. Regarding payment for procurement of foodgrains, the policy of Government is to pay the same through account payee cheque or bank transfer as far as possible.

(c)&(d): In view of the above, does not arise.