

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6336
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
SMUGGLING OF FOODGRAINS
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether foodgrains under the public distribution system meant for the poor are being smuggled to neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of complaints received during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the Union Government has sought information in this regard from some States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto alongwith the quantum and value of such foodgrains smuggled, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that foodgrains allocated to the States for public distribution are not smuggled?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): To prevent smuggling of foodgrains and other items from India to neighbouring countries, the Customs (Department of Revenue) and Security Forces are deployed at the borders.

There have been some reports and incidents of smuggling of Indian foodgrains. As per report received from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), details of foodgrains seized by SSB on India-Nepal border during the last three years and current year are at Annexure. Further, Border Security Force (BSF) has also reported seizure of foodgrains while being smuggled out. Details of foodgrains seized by BSF along India-Bangladesh border during the last three years and current year are as under:-

Year	Quantity(in MTs)
2009	49.51
2010	116.06
2011	45.34
2012	5.85

(upto
31.03.2012)

Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued Instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools. To prevent smuggling of foodgrains and other items from India, Customs (Department of Revenue) and the Security Forces deployed at the borders maintain vigil at international borders and take required preventive action.