

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2578
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Aron Shri Praveen Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the efficacy of the procurement, lifting and storage system of foodgrains including wheat in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether there have been reports of lower payment than the prescribed Minimum Support Price and involvement of touts in the procurement process during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, State-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Before the start of every marketing season, Department of Food & Public Distribution convenes a meeting of State Food Secretaries, Food Corporation of India and other stake holders to prepare a detailed action plan for making the arrangements of procurement in the ensuing marketing season. Details of number of procurement centres to be opened and arrangements like purchase of packaging material and storage space etc. are discussed in the meeting. Review is made from time to time on the need of additional procurement centres, if any. During the procurement season, the required additional procurement centres are also opened. Lifting of foodgrains by States and Union Territories is also reviewed from time to time.

(c) (d) and (e): Yes, Madam. Six (06) complaints have been received pertaining to alleged irregularities in foodgrains management, procurement, transportation and storage of wheat from Madhya Pradesh during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13, wherein a demand for inquiry by the Union Government were raised. The details are given in Annexure. The complaints have been forwarded to FCI and the State Government for seeking their comments on the complaints.