

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3417
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the States are hiring contractors for procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains to children under the ICDS Scheme in contravention of Supreme Court order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a): In a Public Interest Litigation W.P. No. 196/2001 filed by Peoples' Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) Vs. Union of India and others, Supreme Court of India vide their order dated 07.10.2004, reiterated on 13.12.2006 and 22.4.2009, had directed that the contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals.

Following these directions, all the States/UTs were addressed accordingly on 17.12.2004. The States/UTs were advised to individually file affidavits in the Supreme Court in compliance of the above orders. The Ministry further issued instructions on 20.12.2005 to States/UTs to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups and Mahila Mandals should be used, as far as possible, for buying food grains, other condiments etc., for preparation of meals at anganwadi centre and supervision/monitoring of supplementary nutrition.

Besides this, the Government of India also issued revised Feeding and Nutritional norms of 24.2.2009 detailing the mode and mechanism of SNP delivery which have been endorsed by the Apex Court vide their order of 22.4.2009.

(b) & (c): In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.