

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3737
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
PDS SALE THROUGH MIDDLEMEN
Amlabe Shri Narayan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints with regard to sale of Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through middlemen in various States of the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against such middlemen and the entitlement, allocation and off take of foodgrains under PDS during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of wastage of foodgrains especially wheat in the recent past in Madhya Pradesh due to shortage of storage facilities;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to extend assistance to the State Governments in constructing godowns through the private sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): 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-I. The complaints have been forwarded to FCI and the State Government for seeking their comments on the complaints.

Government of India makes allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States/Union Territories @ 35 kg. per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana households. Allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families is based on availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, APL allocations range between 15 and 35 kg per family/month in different States/UTs.

State-wise allocation and offtake of foodgrains under PDS during each of the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. State-wise details of foodgrain stock accrued as damaged /non issuable including in Madhya Pradesh with FCI for the last three years is at Annexure-III. Steps taken by FCI to check damage of foodgrains is at Annexure IV.

(e) & (f) : To increase storage capacity for foodgrains procured for the central pool and to reduce the storage under Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government has formulated the Private Entrepreneurs' Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the Scheme, a capacity of about 181 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States