

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3832
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
DELAY IN PROCUREMENT
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) whether the procurement of foodgrains was delayed/stopped at several procurement centres of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the country particularly in the backward and tribal areas of Maharashtra due to lack of adequate provisions including gunny bags;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to make immediate and adequate arrangements of various provisions including gunny bags in all the procurement centres of FCI as per the requirement; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) sources its requirement of jute bags through Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) as per estimates of procurement. Due to constraints on production capacity of jute mills and simultaneous requirement of jute bags by State Governments and their agencies involved in procurement, some delay in despatch/receipt of jute bags does take place occasionally. However, timely action is taken by FCI to reallocate/move bags from surplus regions to deficient regions so that procurement is not affected.

However, no complaint regarding shortage of jute bags has been received from Maharashtra.

(c) & (d): 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 arrangements of procurement in the ensuing marketing season. Details of number of procurement centres to be opened and availability of packaging material and storage space etc. are reviewed in the said meeting. Such review meeting for ensuing KMS 2012-13 was held on 01.08.2012. Review is also made with Food Corporation of India and State Governments from time to time to coordinate arrangements for supply of gunny bags for procurement. Other stakeholders e.g. Ministry of Textiles, Jute Commissioner, DGS&D and Jute Industry representatives are also involved in such review. For the ensuing KMS 2012-13, 3 such reviews have been held during the months of June to August 2012.