

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

SMUGGLING OF PDS FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether wheat, rice and other foodgrains meant for distribution under the Public Distribution System are reportedly being smuggled into Nepal and Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the States from where such smuggling is taking place along with the number of persons arrested in this regard;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been constituted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the status thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): There have been some reports and incidents of smuggling of Indian foodgrains. As per report received from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), State-wise details of foodgrains seized and arrests made by SSB on India-Nepal border during the last year and current year is at Annexure. Further, Border Security Force (BSF) has also reported seizure of foodgrains while being smuggled out. State-wise details of foodgrains seized and apprehensions made by BSF along India-Bangladesh border during the last year and current year is at Annexure.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered one case for alleged misappropriation of foodgrains meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) and dispatched to Bangladesh through rail. Four persons have been arrested during the course of investigation. Further, Directorate of Enforcement has registered 13 cases for the offence of money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 on the basis of cases registered by CBI and Uttar Pradesh Police for the export of foodgrains meant for distribution under PDS in the State of Uttar Pradesh to Bangladesh. No person has been arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement in these cases.

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.