

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

PROCUREMENT CENTRES

Ajay Kumar SHRI ;Choudhary Shri Harish;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay ;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government/Food Corporation of India (FCI) had opened adequate number of procurement centres for foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of centres opened and foodgrains procured during the said period, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether certain procurement centres in the States have since been closed, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue including creating awareness amongst the farmers about the arrangement made/being made for procurement of their foodgrains and the process thereto?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes Madam. The State Governments/Food Corporation of India (FCI) had opened adequate number of procurement centres for procurement of foodgrains during each of the last three years and current year.
- (b): The number of procurement centres opened for procurement of Paddy and Wheat in the last three marketing seasons and current marketing season are at Annexures I and II. The quantities of Paddy and Wheat procured during the said period are at Annexure III and IV.
- (c): No complaints/reports about the closure of the procurement centres have been received.
- (d): The following steps have been taken to expand the reach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations:-
 1. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened by Food Corporation of India/State Governments/its Agencies before the onset of the procurement season, keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the State.
 2. States are encouraged to adopt Decentralised Procurement (DCP) system to maximise procurement and to ensure better reach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers.
 3. Instructions have been issued to open procurement centres at the locations convenient to farmers.
 4. In order to extend the reach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations to marginal/small farmers, commission at the rate of 2.5% of MSP in respect of paddy and 2% of MSP in respect of wheat has been allowed to Cooperative Societies/Self Help Groups.