

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3660

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013

DISTRESS SALE OF CEREALS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether instances of distress sale of cereals, mainly paddy by farmers despite a steady rise in the minimum support price have been reported from some States particularly from the eastern parts of the country during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has sought information from the States on this issue;
- (d) if so, the response of the State thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check such distress sale by farmers and to provide remunerative prices to them?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): No, Madam. No such instances of distress sale of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) Cereals mainly paddy by farmers, have been reported from the states including states of eastern part of country.
- (c) & (d): Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.
- (e): The steps taken by the Union Government to check distress sales by farmers and provide them remunerative prices are as under:-
 - (i) To spread awareness, MSP operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards and advertisements through print & electronic media regarding MSP, quality, specifications, purchase system, etc. so that the farmers may bring their produce conforming to the specifications.
 - (ii) In order to maximise the outreach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, Food Corporation of India (FCI) in consultation with State Governments operates sufficient number of purchase centres at appropriate places;
 - (iii) The State Governments engage Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Societies etc. who can have better reach and increase the volume of procurement.
 - (iv) To ensure that the benefit of MSP reaches the farmers, arrangements have been made to make payments to farmers through account payee cheque/ electronic mode, wherever possible.
 - (v) State Governments are encouraged to undertake decentralized procurement, so as to enhance the procurement of food grains from the farmers.