

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6487

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

WHEAT EXPORT

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Indian wheat is facing a tough competition and draws a lower price in the International market due to its inferior quality in comparison to wheat from other countries like Australia and Ukraine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Food Corporation of India has sent or proposes to send a delegation to Singapore and Australia to study wheat exports and various other aspects like gradation, storage, port operations etc. for boosting exports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No, Madam. The Indian wheat has fetched weighted average Free on Board (FOB) rate of US \$ 312.17 per metric ton in tenders approved between August,2012 to April, 2013 which is higher than the comparable wheat in international market including that of Australia and Ukraine.

(c) &(d): Yes, Madam. An Indian delegation consisting of senior officers from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), Department of Commerce and Food Corporation of India visited Australia and Singapore on a study tour during 26th January,2013 to 5th February,2013 to learn about the quality upgradation, handling and marketing practices of wheat adopted in those countries. The delegation visited Storage and Export Terminals at the ports and had meetings with major international grain trading organizations. The delegation also looked at the mechanised handling of wheat in bulk for shipment in Australia.