

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6567  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
PROCUREMENT FROM MIDDLEMEN  
Mahato Shri Narahari; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints/reports regarding involvement of middlemen in procurement by the Food Corporation of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government agencies procure only a small portion of foodgrains produced by the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the foodgrains produced and procured during the said period along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d): As per the existing procurement policy, all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at the MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Since there is no compulsion on the farmers to sell their produce, to their disadvantage, thus the Government procures only that portion of the production which is brought to the Government procurement agencies for sale. The State wise details of production, procurement and the percentage of procurement to production is Annexed.