

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013  
SELECTION OF PROCUREMENT AGENCIES  
Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Singh Shri Ratan

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

- (a) the schedule for selection of agencies for undertaking procurement at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government along with the criteria/procedure adopted for the same;
- (b) the period for which these agencies are engaged in procurement during a particular season;
- (c) whether any complaints have been received regarding irregularities in the procurement process during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Before the start of every marketing season, Government convenes a meeting of State Food Secretaries, Food Corporation of India and other stake holders to prepare a detailed action plan for making the arrangements of procurement in the ensuing marketing season. Details of number of procurement centres to be opened and arrangements like purchase of packaging material and storage space etc. are discussed in the meeting. Review is made from time to time on the need of additional procurement centres if any. During the procurement season, the required additional procurement centres are also opened. The estimated quantity to be procured in a particular State is assigned to one or more agencies by the State Government concerned based on their capacity and past performance before the commencement of concerned marketing season. The agencies are selected by the State governments as per the criteria / procedure adopted by the concerned State Government.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. Twelve (12) complaints have been received, in the Department of Food & Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India pertaining to alleged irregularities in foodgrains procurement process. The details are given in Annexure. The complaints have been forwarded to FCI and the State Government for appropriate enquiry and action.