

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4044  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009  
PROCUREMENT FROM MIDDLEMEN  
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding large scale procurement by the Food Corporation of India from middlemen instead of farmers at its procurement centres in the country including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) and (b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) undertakes the procurement operations either by itself or through State Government agencies directly from the farmers on production of relevant documents/certificate as specified by the respective State Governments to avoid any intervention by middlemen. Moreover, payment is also released to the farmers only through cheque.

In Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09, the Secretary (Food), Government of Bihar has instructed all the State agencies as well as FCI to implement 'farmers identity card' to ensure purchase from genuine farmers only.

The FCI in Bihar has also conveyed instructions to the field staff to ensure that purchases are made strictly from the genuine farmers without any involvement of middlemen/traders.

(c): A complaint from Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal dated 3.10.2009 has been received and has been sent to State Government and FCI for enquiry. Complaints received in this regard are forwarded to State Government/FCI for enquiry and immediate action.