

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1316
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to procure foodgrains directly from the farmers to ensure that the farmers are able to get remunerative price for their produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan formulated therefor;
- (c) whether the Food Corporation of India has adequate manpower to handle the procurement process; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government procures foodgrains directly from farmers to ensure that farmers are able to get remunerative price for their produce. Before the start of each Marketing Season, Government of India convenes a meeting of State Food Secretaries, Food Corporation of India (FCI) officials and other stake holders to discuss various arrangements made by FCI and State Agencies to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers for procurement of paddy and wheat from farmers. 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 producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Foodgrains procured by the State Governments and their agencies are ultimately taken over by the FCI for distribution throughout the country. In consultation with FCI and State Agencies sufficient number of procurement centres are opened during every marketing season to ensure purchase of paddy and wheat from farmers. Review of arrangements are made periodically and if required, additional purchase centres are also opened during the procurement season. Details of steps taken by Government to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. As on 31.12.2014 the total manpower in FCI in position is 23946 and presently FCI is effectively handling the procurement operations with their support. FCI is also supported by the State Government Agencies in its procurement operations, which in turn involve cooperative societies, self help groups, arthias etc/ in reaching out to farmers.