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Title: Alleged attempt to dismantle the functioning of the PDS in West Bengal.

SHRI ALAKESH DAS (NAWADWIP): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The West Bengal Government have decided to procure 12 lakh metric tonnes of food grains this year. But I apprehend that this attempt is going to be

failed because the FCI authority have decided to reduce its districts under it from 19 to 11. Actually, the administrative control and monitoring of the depots which were decentralised through these districts will be facing problems Hence, the PDS in West Bengal will be hampered. They are closing the district office of Dinajpur whose procurement rate is the second highest in West Bengal. In North Bengal, they are amalgamating five districts into two and are merging big districts like Kolkata, the North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, etc. All arrangements are ready and they are going to adopt the policy from 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005. Already promotions and transfers have been stopped. Though the districts have depots with nil storage capacity or insufficient capacity compared to the size of the population, compared to the demand from the poorer sections for food grains through PDS and other welfare schemes of the Central Government for managing smooth levy of rice procurement. But now, the food godowns are also going to be closed by the FCI authorities. They are not going to be non-operated or will be de-hired in districts like Pandipara, Gopalpur, Khardah, Kelvin, Canning Diamond Harbour, Kakinada, etc.

I would request the concerned hon. Minister, through you, to intervene in the matter and stop the FCI in taking this dangerous anti-people measure.