

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request changing the norms of government procurement of crops of food grains by FCI.

***DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB):** Thank you, Hon. Chairman Sir. I want to raise before the Central Government a very important issue in this House.

Yesterday, a report was published in the newspapers of Punjab that Food Corporation of India (FCI) is changing the norms of Government procurement of foodgrains. I did not believe these reports. I asked the Government officials regarding it. They have sent me these documents. You will be surprised to know about the recommendations given by FCI. All kinds of strict norms regarding moisture etc. are being implemented. They are quoting private companies in this regard.

When we opposed the Agriculture Laws, allegations were leveled against us that we are speaking in favour of these companies. But, the letter I have, says that Government is doing it at the behest of private companies.

So, I urge upon the Government not to destroy the farmers. These norms should be scrapped altogether. Central Government should not notify these norms. Farmers are already agitating. They should not be troubled more. Atmosphere of the country should not be vitiated further. It is a fraud perpetrated on farmers. I oppose it vehemently. It should be taken back. Thank you.