

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2190
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS AT HIGHER RATE
PRABHUNATH SINGH

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

- (a) the manner by which the Government ensure that the price at which the foodgrains are procured from the open market are the minimum and quality-wise good/best;
- (b) the procedure followed by the Government to ensure that the farmers get fair price of their produce;
- (c) whether any irregularities have come to light in regard to the purchase of foodgrains at higher rates of poor quality; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : FCI alongwith other State Government agencies procure foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications under price support operations. Those quantities of foodgrains offered for sale by the farmers at specified centres/mandis and rail heads are purchased by FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Prices to maintain food security and to ensure remunerative price to the farmers. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened for procurement of foodgrains by the FCI and the State Governments with mutual consultation well in advance before commencement of each marketing season. In order to monitor the Minimum Support Price Scheme, Special Control Rooms are set up in FCI at their Headquarters as well as its Regional Offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with FCI/State Governments. However, the farmers/ producers of foodgrains (wheat, paddy & coarsegrains) are free to sell their produce to FCI and public procurement agencies at MSP, or to the millers/traders at the rates as are advantageous to them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.