

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:326

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006

SUPPLY OF FOOD TO ARMY

Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar,Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether any irregularities in the procurement of ration for the Army has come to notice in the recent past;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether any concrete plan has been formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government to prevent irregularities in the food supplies to army ;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) If not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 326 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2006

Certain cases of irregularities in the procurement/purchase of some items of dry rations and frozen meat for the Army have come to light.

The irregularities in purchase of some items of dry rations were investigated by a Court of Inquiry. During the inquiry certain omissions/lapses in the functioning and discharge of duties by various functionaries with respect of provisioning and supply of Masur Whole, Kabuli Chana, Barley Crushed and Gram Kibbled have come to light. On the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, competent authority has directed to initiate action as per procedure laid down in the military law against the then Director General Supplies and Transport, five officers and one Junior Commissioned Officer. One of the indicted officers has approached the Delhi High court challenging the validity of the Court of Inquiry. The case is presently sub-judice.

In the matter of irregularities in frozen meat supply, a Court of Inquiry has been concluded and its recommendations submitted for the orders of the competent authority. Meanwhile, one of the officers against whom the Court of Inquiry was held has approached Delhi High Court for quashing the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry.

The existing policy and procedures with regard to procurement of rations are comprehensive. The Defence Procurement Manual 2006 has adequate built in safeguards. However, as an ongoing process the government continuously examines and incorporates necessary changes to further streamline the procurement procedures.