

**Lack of awareness about procurement agency**

721. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry accepts that lack of awareness or lack of access led to only six per cent of the farmers in India being able to sell their produce to a procurement agency according to NSSO data for 2012-13;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to increase awareness about Government procurement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to improve access, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Farmers are made aware of the procurement operations by way of advertisements like displaying banners, pamphlets, announcement for procurement and specification in print and electronic media. Some States have taken steps to pre-register farmers for ensuring procurement from them through a software system.

(c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken to improve access for the procurement amongst the farmers are given in the Statement.

***Statement******The steps taken to improve access for the procurement amongst the farmers***

1. Keeping in view the procurement potential areas, procurement centres for MSP operations are opened by Government agencies, both FCI and State Government, after mutual consultations.
2. Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies/ FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.
3. The Government agencies also engage Co-operative Societies and Self Help Group which work as aggregators of produce from farmers and bring the produce to purchase centres being operated in particular locations/areas and

increase outreach of MSP operations to small and marginal farmers. These Co-operative Societies are in addition to the direct purchases from farmers.

4. Co-operative societies/Self Help Groups are engaged in many States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Whereas, in some states like Punjab and Haryana, the Government of India has permitted the State Governments to engage Arhatiyas for procurement of foodgrains from the farmers on payment of commission. These steps have been taken by Government of India (GOI) so that Government agencies can procure maximum foodgrains directly from farmers by expanding out- reach of MSP benefit to farmers.

#### **Distribution of pulses through PDS**

722. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked State Governments to make cheaper lentils available to consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections, through the Public Distribution System, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has also asked State Governments to indicate their requirement of pulses for distribution through the PDS and control, the price rise; and

(c) if so, whether Government has received the requirements from State Governments, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government has had sought requirement for distribution of the 5000 MT of Tur imported under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. Based on the request received the allocation till now are Andhra Pradesh (1872 MT), Telangana (500 MT), Tamil Nadu (1000 MT), Uttar Pradesh (250 MT) and Odisha (300 MT) and 500 MT to Safal and Kendriya Bhandar for distribution through their outlets in Delhi.

#### **Gap in Demand and supply of pulses**

723. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country needs 10 million tonnes of pulses as per ASSOCHAM, considering the deficit in rainfall coupled with shortage of production of pulses in the country; and