

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, as introduced in Parliament, does not contain any specific penal provisions against famous personalities endorsing misleading advertisements. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution in the Ninth Report on the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 however made recommendations for imposing punishments against endorsers/celebrities who endorse misleading advertisements. The recommendations are being examined.

Procurement of agricultural yields from farmers

†1992. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of farmers owing to procurement of their various agricultural yields by private sectors at lower than the prescribed rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that negligence of Government agencies towards procurement of farmers yields has come to light from time to time; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry is contemplating to prepare a blueprint for total procurement of yield of farmers by Government agencies, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI)/State Government agencies procure wheat and paddy. The steps taken to safeguard the interests of farmers and to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices/MSP for Wheat and Paddy are given in the Statement (*See below*).

State Government procures Coarse grains like Jowar, Bajra, Maize and Ragi upto their requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with prior approval of Government of India.

Cotton Corporation of India procures cotton. Jute Corporation of India procures jute. Pulses and Oilseeds are procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) and FCI.

(b) No Sir, recently no such incident came to the notice of Government of India. However, Procuring agency has mechanisms to resolve complaints of farmers. In case of complaints by farmers these agencies redress the grievances of farmers and ensure that benefit of MSP reaches the farmers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No Sir, there is no plan for total procurement of yields of farmers by Government Agencies.

Statement

*Steps taken to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices/MSP
for Wheat and Paddy*

In order to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices/MSP for Wheat and Paddy, following mechanism have been put in place:-

1. The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSP is decided after taking into account the cost to farmer and margin of the farmers.
2. MSP (Minimum Support Price) operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards radio, TV and advertisements through print and electronic media regarding MSP, quality, specifications, purchase system, and so on to spread awareness so that the farmers may bring their produce conforming to the specifications.
3. 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.
4. The agricultural produce brought by a farmer is procured by Government agencies and payments are made through account payee cheque/RTGS, if the stocks confirm to quality specifications prescribed by GoI.
5. State Governments are encouraged to undertake decentralized procurement, so as to enhance the procurement of food grains.
6. State Government are adopting e-procurement system so as to effectively monitor the procurement operations.
7. Procurement by Government Agencies is open ended. Under this policy, whatever food grains are offered by farmers from across the country, within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India are, purchased at MSP by the Government Agencies including FCI for Central pool.

8. If any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell his produce in Open market *i.e.* to private trader/anyone. If the produce of farmer does not meet the specifications and he does not agree to upgrade, then the farmer is free to sell to the private trader at mutually agreed rate.

Damage to foodgrains procured by FCI

†1993. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the storage capacity available and taken on rental basis by Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) the quantity of foodgrains produced, purchased, stored and damaged during last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether FCI has investigated the cases of damage of foodgrains, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for storage and management of foodgrains scientifically to check their damage and to ensure the proper use of foodgrains under welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) (owned as well as hired) and State Agencies for storage of Central pool stocks as on 1st June during the last three years and current year also with corresponding stock position in Central pool is given as below:—

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	FCI owned	FCI hired	State agencies	Total	Stock position
01.06.13	156.33	240.69	354.28	751.30	676.59
01.06.14	156.47	230.93	375.47	762.87	622.31
01.06.15	153.42	219.58	381.26	754.26	568.34
01.06.16	154.15	208.32	449.47	811.94	534.29

The details of state-wise storage capacity available with FCI alongwith stocks held by FCI as on 1st June of the year is given in the Statement-I (See below). The details showing State-wise production/procurement of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) during last three years and current year is given in the Statement-II (See below). Quantities of foodgrains found non-issuable (damaged) during last three

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.