

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.387
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER 2022

RELEASE OF PENDING FUND TO PUNJAB DUES ON FCI

387 SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Gazette Notification of Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Act, 2022 has been published;
- (b) whether Government has received a request from Punjab Government for releasing the pending Rural Development Fund amounting ₹ 1760 crores with Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (c) whether Government is planning to release this pending amount;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the plans, if any, to release the funds?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): As per guidelines dated 24.02.2022.issued by Department of Food and Public Distribution, only those charges which are being utilized for improving the infrastructure and facilities to augment the quality of procurement centres should be part of claims for financial assistance. Accordingly, State Government was requested to provide the relevant information in the month of July, 2022. No provisional food subsidy bill has been received from the State Governments during the current financial year.

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(c)to(e): The provisional food subsidy is released to the DCP (Decentralized Procurement) States on the basis of their quarterly claims, which is an ongoing and continuous process. These claims are processed keeping in view the opening and closing balance of stocks, procurement, allocation and distribution of food grains, Food Corporation of India reconciliation, Utilization Certificates, Economic Cost of food grains etc., among others.
