

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2018

GHOST WORKERS IN FCI

630. SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ghost workers have been found to be engaged in loading and unloading work at different depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and losses incurred to FCI as a result thereof during the said period, depot-wise;
- (c) whether any probe has been initiated in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and findings thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): No instances of engagement of ghost labours in Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been formally reported for loading and unloading work during the last three years. However, some instances of high handling of bags by labourers were noticed in Haryana Region depots of FCI during Rabi 2014-15. Accordingly, the matter was investigated and disciplinary action has been taken against erring officials.

Some instances of payment of high incentives was noticed in some depots, which was due to incentive norms of the Corporation taking place especially during loading and unloading of rakes when the volume of operation increases multifold and labourers have to handle more bags than the norm prevalent at that time. The rationalization of labour in pursuant to exemption notification dated 06.07.2016 and revision of incentive norms has considerably reduced incidence of high incentives.

Further, preventive measures like installation of CCTV cameras, biometric attendance system, payment of wages in bank account of labours through RTGS/NEFT, introducing Depot Online System (DOS) which maintains record of attendance, work done, wages of labour and Integrated Security Surveillance System (ISSS) has been put in place to avoid possible use of any proxy labour.