

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3201

ANSWERED ON: 22.03.2002

**SUPPLY OF WHEAT TO AFGHANISTAN**

IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

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

- (a) whether India has fully met the demands made by the newly formed Kabul Government for wheat supply;
- (b) if so, whether after Pakistan's refusal to allow transit facility, any other country has offered such facilities;
- (c) if so, the names of the countries who have offered such facilities; and
- (d) the total wheat so far supplied to Kabul by India?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)**

(a),(b),(c)&(d): As part of our commitment to ameliorate the condition of Afghan people the Government has committed to offer humanitarian assistance to internally and externally displaced Afghans, and others in need, including provision of one million tonnes of wheat. Government has been in touch with various UN agencies, including the World Food Programme and is working out the modalities for sending humanitarian assistance of wheat to the Afghan people as early as possible. As part of Indian UN aid for Afghanistan, the Government has not approached Pakistan for transit facility. There have been reports that Pakistan has not been willing to provide transit facility for this humanitarian assistance claiming alleged infestation and disease. Government have made it clear that such claims are ill-founded and self-serving. The Government is continuing to explore various options in order to send the wheat to Afghan people as early as possible.