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# FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

*PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION*

**HEADQUARTERS**

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## **Press Release**

### **FCI rolls out ambitious plans to improve food grains management**

**New Delhi, Sep 8:** Food Corporation of India (FCI) will invite suggestions from the public and stake-holders on restructuring its key functions with a view to further strengthen and integrate the supply chain of food-grains in the country.

A newly-constituted High-Level Committee (HLC) mandated with the task of reorienting its MSP (minimum support price) operations, food storage and security systems met today and discussed ways to earn public responses on the matters in a bid to gear up FCI's food-grain management and streamline the public distribution system.

The HLC's day-long session at the FCI headquarters in the national capital was led by the committee's chairman Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament. Experts and top officials discussed ways to better the structure and functioning of the 1964-founded PSU.

As for the stake-holders from whom FCI would elicit responses, they include professionals, academicians, scientists, NGOs/institutions, self-help groups, cooperatives, farmer associations, rice/flour millers, handling & transport contractors, government bodies associated to food management, agriculture, storage, warehousing, supply chain and logistics.

The meeting also decided to invite suggestions on integration of supply chain of food-grains in the country suggesting least cost option for moving food-grains, models of scientific storage and upgradation on technology in management of food-grains. An advertisement for this purpose was approved by the HLC in the form of public notice.

The HLC chairperson sought suggestions of all members of the committee as to how the body should proceed further for its deliberations. The meeting stressed the need for the committee to firm up the list of stake holders with whom it would like to interact at various places.

The meeting also decided to invite private sector firms to make a presentation on "International Best Practices in Storage/handling of foodgrains" before the committee in its next meeting. The HLC also sought



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a summary of all the reports of earlier Committees for a discussion in the next meeting to be held on September 15 this year.

FCI Chairman and Managing Director Mr C Viswanath, who is Member Convenor of the HLC, made a detailed presentation on FCI's mandate, organisational structure, issues of foodgrains procurement/offtake/sales, storage scenario, financials and the corporation's recent initiatives, besides its vision for future. "The meeting saw fruitful discussions and deliberations among all the committee members," he added.

The HLC members discussed various issues of foodgrain management and steps to increase the efficiency of FCI. The committee has decided to look into various areas which are an integral part of the foodgrains management and distribution system.

The watershed move come in the wake of a major effort to alter FCI's commonly perceived image as a corporation plagued by functional and cost inefficiencies. It was last month that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution set up the eight-member HLC whose mandate is to recommend restructuring of FCI after considering various aspects of the PSU's present structure and functional areas in consultation with various stakeholders. The HLC will now be studying various models of restructuring of FCI operations and suggest better methods to improve efficiency and financial management of FCI.

Today's meeting was attended by Dr Ashok Gulati, former Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices; Prof G Raghuram, IIM Ahmedabad Dean; Prof. Gunmadi Nancharaiah, Dean of School of Economics under Hyderabad University; Shri Ram Sewak Sharma Secretary (Electronic & IT), Shri Avinash Champawat from Govt. of Chhattisgarh and Shri D S Grewal Food Secretary from Govt. of Punjab.

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