



Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board

At a Glance

Functions

The Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board (DAMB) attempts to safeguard the interests of farmers and consumers by providing wholesale markets where farmers' produce is auctioned to licensed agents.

Findings

- The Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee had an income of Rs 36.79 crore in 2001-02. It contributed Rs 4.42 crore to DAMB. The lowest income that year was of the Khoya-Mawa Marketing Committee amounting to Rs 32 lac. And it paid Rs 6.4 lac to DAMB.
- Farmers actually pay 7-15% of the sales as commission to licensed agents, on top of 1% transaction fee they give to the *mandi*.
- The rampant corruption in the marketing committees was brought to fore by the arrest of the Delhi Fodder Market Committee Chairman, Om Prakash Oman in May 2002 for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000.

Reforms

- Remove the monopoly of the DAMB on wholesale markets. Let private parties set up competing markets. The Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee alone pays about Rs 442 lac per year to DAMB which is in effect paid by the farmers. If we do away with the monopoly market, a large part of money could be saved for the farmers.
- Eliminate the licensing system for wholesalers and commission agents and create genuine competition for the purchase of farmers' produce. They will pay a much lower commission. The farmers are exploited by the monopoly of DAMB and by the restrictions on wholesalers.

- Those voluntary agencies that truly want to help farmers should start by providing space for wholesale trade and offer choice of markets so that free and fair trade can take place.

Two former Marketing Board officials held

Tribune News Service

New Delhi, June 20

The Anti-Corruption branch today arrested two former officials of the Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board for illegally issuing licences to the commission agents in Subzi Mandi three years ago. The anti-corruption authorities alleged that the officials had entered into a criminal conspiracy with the other officials, and issued

fresh licences, despite a notification order that the land was meant for the purpose of Delhi Metro project.

The officials, Dharmibir Singh, resident of Gazipur, the then Assistant Secretary of the board and Sagar Singh, resident of Azadpur, the then Supervisor tampered with the files by entering back dates.