

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3285
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018

PROCUREMENT OF PADDY IN JHARKHAND

3285. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers of various States, Jharkhand, in particular are compelled to sell their paddy at the rate lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the agencies, that purchase paddy at MSP, are being unable to achieve their targets;
- (c) if so, the action being taken against the officers responsible therefor; and
- (d) the prescribed period for procurement of paddy in Jharkhand and the achievement made therein so far?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a): There exists a transparent and Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever paddy is offered by farmers within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, is purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government Agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI), for Central Pool.

Based on production, expected procurement, marketable surplus in the catchment area, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage, transportation and milling facilities etc., the number of procurement centres to be opened are decided mutually by various State Governments/its procurement agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI). Large numbers of temporary purchase centres are also established for the convenience of the farmers.

The total number of paddy procurement centres opened in State of Jharkhand during the last two years and current year is as under:

KMS	Purchase centres opened in Jharkhand
2015-16	457
2016-17	506
2017-18	591

(b), (c) & (d): The procurement of wheat and rice depends upon various factors such as production of crop (yield and acreage), prevailing market price, inclination on part of farmers to retain stock in anticipation of price hike, participation of Private Traders etc.

During Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2017-18, various agencies have been engaged for paddy procurement in Jharkhand region. Estimate for procurement of 2.50 LMT paddy in terms of rice has been made for KMS 2017-18 against which 1.07 LMT of paddy in terms of rice have been procured till 19.03.2018. Procurement of paddy in terms of rice during corresponding period in KMS 2016-17 was 0.58 LMT.

The period of procurement of paddy prescribed by Government of India for Jharkhand for KMS 2017-18 is from December, 2017 to March, 2018.