

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1831  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018

**PROCUREMENT OF PADDY IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

1831. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by paddy growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh in the current Kharif season as public procurement centres, millers and middlemen in the State are fleecing the farmers;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that millers and middlemen are not adhering to the limits of moisture and other specifications and reducing the price of paddy even below MSP after taking paddy to mills; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to intervene in the matter, and procure paddy from farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States?

**A N S W E R**

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

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(a) to (c): No such incidence has come to the notice of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.

Andhra Pradesh being a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State, the State Government itself undertakes procurement operations from farmers.

However, following steps are taken to ensure adequate procurement facilities, so that farmers are able to get minimum support price for their produce:

- i) Before the onset of each marketing season, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India (GOI) holds a consultative meeting with the officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Governments and others to make an assessment of availability of wheat and paddy/rice for procurement at MSP based on the prospects of production and market situation.
- ii) Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards, radio, TV and advertisements through print & electronic media, so that farmers are made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc.
- iii) Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies/ Food Corporation of India (FCI), taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres, in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.
- iv) FCI and many of the States including Andhra Pradesh, have developed online procurement systems.

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