

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025

DELAY IN WHEAT AND PADDY PROCUREMENT IN PUNJAB

3409 **SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:**

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken any measures to address the persistent delays in wheat and paddy procurement in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has reduced the procurement share of Punjab in the central pool over the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the rationale and impact on Punjab's farmers?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(**SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA**)

(a) and (b): The period of procurement of paddy for Kharif Marketing Season and wheat for Rabi Marketing Season are fixed in consultation with respective State Government during the meeting with Food Secretaries of State/UTs.

There has been no delay in procurement of wheat and paddy in Punjab. The date of commencement of wheat and paddy procurement in Punjab for last five Marketing Seasons are as under:

Marketing Season	Date of commencement of procurement	
	Wheat	Paddy
2020-21	15.04.2020	26.09.2020
2021-22	10.04.2021	03.10.2021
2022-23	01.04.2022	01.10.2022
2023-24	01.04.2023	01.10.2023
2024-25	01.04.2024	01.10.2024

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Further, during the Food Secretaries meeting held on 28.02.2025, the period for procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2025-26 has been fixed from 01.04.2025 to 15.05.2025.

(c) and (d): The procurement of wheat and Paddy in a state is based upon estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern.

The procurement of paddy from Punjab vis-à-vis All India procurement for central pool during last five year are as under:

Kharif Marketing Season	Procurement from Punjab (in LMT)	All India Procurement (in LMT)
2020-21	203.11	895.66
2021-22	187.56	857.30
2022-23	182.29	846.45
2023-24	185.54	782.25
2024-25 (up to 24.03.2025)	173.55	758.73

The procurement of wheat from Punjab vis-à-vis All India procurement for central pool during last five year are as under:

Rabi Marketing Season	Procurement from Punjab (in LMT)	All India Procurement (in LMT)
2020-21	127.25	389.93
2021-22	132.39	433.44
2022-23	96.48	187.92
2023-24	121.27	261.97
2024-25	124.57	266.05

State Government Agencies and FCI procure all the wheat & paddy offered by the farmers that meets the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications in the State at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the stipulated time for Central Pool in order to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale. However, if farmers get a better price than MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.
