

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1444
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12/12/2025

REVISING RICE PROCUREMENT TARGET FOR TAMIL NADU

1444. SHRI R.GIRIRAJAN:

Will the minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any plea from Government of Tamil Nadu for raising the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement from 17 percent to 22 percent, and for revising the rice procurement target for Tamil Nadu from 16 lakh metric tonnes to match the actual output and for easing norms for sampling Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) to speed up milling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Central Government's stand in this regard; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to intervene and address an "urgent and consequential situation" arising out of unprecedeted production levels in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. As per the information received from Department of Food and Public Distribution, the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for raising the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement from 17 percent to 22 percent and revision in target of paddy procurement in the state during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26 (Kharif crop) to the actual production and procurement levels for the season.

The permissible moisture content for paddy procurement upto 22% was not considered by the Government due to the following facts:

- a. Paddy can be dried before milling; procurement of excessively moist paddy introduces significant operational risk, including loss of stock during storage and compromised milling recovery.
- b. Paddy with high moisture content is susceptible in terms of rapid deterioration, fungal growth, discolouration, and infestation.
- c. The State Governments have been repeatedly advised to develop driage facilities at the procurement stages.
- d. The relaxation in moisture content has no direct financial implication on farmers; therefore, such relaxation is no longer considered.

Considering the above technical and operational aspects, the relaxation of moisture norms for procurement is not advisable. This ensures adherence to quality standards, protects the integrity of the Central Pool Stock and prevents downstream issues in storage, milling, and distribution. Therefore, no relaxation in the moisture content of paddy has been granted for the State of Tamil Nadu for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26.

The estimates for procurement of paddy are finalized by Government of India, in consultation with the State Governments before the commencement of each marketing season, based on estimated production, marketable surplus, and crop patterns. Accordingly, the estimates of procurement of paddy for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26 (Kharif crop) in Tamil Nadu have been fixed at 16.00 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) (in terms of rice). The actual procurement of paddy in the state, as on 04.12.2025 is 9.95 LMT (in terms of rice)

The requests for enhancement in procurement estimates are examined with regard to the quantity and pace of procurement during the procurement period.

In order to speed up the seamless supply of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for milling process, the following revisions have been made:

- (a) The batch/lot size of FRK for sampling is revised from 10 MT to 21 MT.
- (b) The bag size is revised from 25 Kg to 50 Kg.