

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1460
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12/12/2025

MOISTURE CONTENT IN PADDY CROPS

1460. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a): in view of the excessive rainfall in Tamil Nadu leading to high moisture content in paddy crops, whether the Union Government will consider the request of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to enhance the permissible moisture limit for paddy to 22 percent to enable smooth procurement from affected farmers; and
- (b): whether Government of Tamil Nadu has requested to implement the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under PM-AASHA (Farmer Income Protection Scheme) and provide compensation for Mango farmers, who are affected by the steep fall in prices and lack of demand from pulp-making industries?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): As per the information received from Department of Food and Public Distribution, the request of the State Government of Tamil Nadu for raising the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement upto 22% was not considered by the department 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 details of Paddy / Rice procurement in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26 are as under:

As on 09.12.2025 (Figures in LMT)

State	Paddy Procurement Estimate (in terms of rice)	KMS 2025-26	
		Paddy Procured	Procurement in terms of Rice
Tamil Nadu	16.00	14.70	9.99

(b): Yes sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under PM-AASHA for price deficiency payment of Totapuri variety of Mango during 2025-26 season.
