

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2808
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2018

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT AND RICE

2808. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recommendations for Food Corporation of India (FCI) to handover all procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to the States that have gained sufficient experience in this regard have been implemented; and
- (b) the steps being taken by FCI to help farmers with small land holdings?

A N S W E R

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

(a): Based on the recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC) on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) headed by Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, at present, no procurement is carried out by FCI in State of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha which have sufficient experience.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) withdrew from procurement operations in State of Haryana during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2015-16. However, on the request of the Government of Haryana FCI has been directed to participate in procurement operations in the State.

Further, request of FCI for withdrawal from procurement operations in Punjab was not accepted by State Government and FCI has been continuing to participate in procurement operations in Punjab also.

(b): The FCI/Government of India along with State Government helps the farmers with small land holdings through procurement operations. Procurement policy of wheat and paddy is open ended. Under this policy, whatever wheat/paddy is offered by farmers, within the stipulated period & conforming to the specifications prescribed, are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the State Government agencies/Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool. However, if producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.