

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18 DECEMBER, 2018

PROCUREMENT OF RICE

1236. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the quantum of rice procured by the Government agencies and they are lagging behind the targets fixed for 2018-19 in different States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the targets fixed and achieved along with the quantum procured by private agencies and the prices paid by the Government and private entrepreneurs, State and UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has also received complaints indicating irregularities in procurement affecting the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate procurement facilities so that farmers are able to get minimum support price for their produce?

A N S W E R

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

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(a) & (b): There is no decline in the procurement of paddy in terms of rice during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2018-19. The procurement of paddy in terms of rice during KMS 2018-19 (as on 12.12.2018) is 209.53 LMT, as compared to 191.84 LMT in KMS 2017-18 (as on 12.12.2017).

(c) & (d): No complaint of irregularities in procurement affecting farmers has come to the notice of Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. 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.
- iii) Farmers are made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc. to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specifications.
- iv) 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.
- v) FCI and many State Governments have developed Online Systems for procurement.