

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1297
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2022**

DIRECT PROCUREMENT AGENTS

1297. SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:

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

- (a) the policy of the Union Government for appointing direct procurement agents for Paddy and wheat;**
- (b) the present rates of commission being granted to the direct procurement agents;**
- (c) whether the Union Government contemplates to appoint the fair price shop dealers in rural areas as direct procurement agents;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Union Government does not feel inclined to agree with the fact that appointing the fair price shop dealers as direct procurement agents will, on the one hand facilitate the procurement and on the other, help the farmers for the sake of the proximity and at the same time enhance the viability of the fair price shop dealers; and**
- (f) if so, the facts thereof?**

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): Procurement of wheat and paddy for central pool is carried out under Decentralized Procurement (DCP) system and Centralized procurement (Non-DCP) system.

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Under DCP system, the State Governments /its agencies procure, store and distribute {against Government of India's allocation for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) & Other Welfare Scheme (OWS)} paddy/rice/wheat within the State. The excess stocks (Rice & wheat) procured by the State /its Agencies are handed over to Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Central Pool.

Under Non-DCP system, the procurement of foodgrains in Central Pool is undertaken either by FCI directly or by State Government Agencies (SGA). Procurement carried out by SGA is handed over to FCI for storage and subsequent issue against Government of India allocations in the same State or movement of surplus stocks to other States.

In major wheat and paddy procuring States like Punjab, Haryana & some parts of Rajasthan, procurement from farmers is undertaken by the FCI/State Agencies through Arthiyas as per Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts of the concerned State for which commission is paid as fixed by Government of India. In some States like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, procurement is made through societies and they are paid commissions as fixed by Government of India.

(b): For RMS 2022-23, arhatia commission at the rate of Rs.46 per quintal and Commission to societies at the rate of Rs.27 per quintal has been allowed in the provisional cost sheet issued by Government of India.

For KMS 2021-22, arhatia commission at the rate of Rs.45.38 per quintal for Paddy (Common) and Rs.45.88 per quintal for Paddy (Grade 'A') has been allowed. Commission to societies has been allowed at the rate of Rs.31.25 per quintal for Paddy (Common) and Rs.32 per quintal for Paddy (Grade 'A') in the provisional cost sheet issued by Government of India subject to condition that societies are actually engaged in procurement operations.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) and (f): Sufficient numbers of procurement centres are opened by State procuring agencies and FCI, keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the State concerned. 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.