

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3417
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2023

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

†3417. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to purchase agricultural commodities through middlemen and provide support price at par with co-operative societies;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (c) if not, whether the proposal may be considered in future;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal from different states of the country in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c): There exists a transparent and uniform policy for procurement of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by Government Agencies across the country.

State Government agencies/Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchase wheat and paddy within the stipulated period with prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specification at MSP for Central Pool. Societies are engaged as commission agents by procuring agencies for procurement of Wheat/Paddy from farmers. In some of the States, arthiyas are also engaged as commission agents.

However, "One Nation, One MSP through DBT" has been implemented across the country from Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22 onwards and payment of MSP has been ensured directly into farmers' accounts.

(d) and (e): No proposal has been received to purchase agricultural commodities through middlemen.