

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1180
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2021**

RICE PROCUREMENT IN PUNJAB

1180. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

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

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has delayed the procurement of custom-milled rice in the State of Punjab, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the reasons for these delay in procurement of custom-milled rice in the State of Punjab thus risking huge losses due to deterioration in the quality of rice of milling process if delivery of rice is not completed at the earliest;**
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure speedy procurement of custom-milled rice in the State of Punjab without any stoppages at an early date and to prevent such delays in the future; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and If not, the reasons therefor?**

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

(a) and (b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not delayed procurement of Custom Milled Rice in the State of Punjab. The details are as under:

(i) On the request of State Government of Punjab, every Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) from 2017-18 to 2019-20 initial milling period was fixed upto 30th June. However, during KMS 2020-21, based on the request of State Government of Punjab, procurement estimate of rice was fixed at 113 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) and milling period was fixed upto 30th April, 2021. Whereas, during KMS 2020-21, the total custom-milled rice (CMR) due is 135.89 LMT, due to unprecedented procurement of 203.96 LMT paddy as compared to average 160-165 LMT of paddy during past few KMS. Later, on the request of State Government, the last date of milling was extended upto 31st July, 2021.

(ii) As on 20.07.2021, FCI has procured 128.53 LMT CMR against total due CMR of 135.89 LMT as compared to procurement of 107.79 LMT CMR against total due rice of 108.90 LMT during previous year.

Thus, it is evident that the pace of acceptance of CMR during KMS 2020-21 has been faster as compared to previous year.

There is no report of deterioration in quality of rice during existing KMS.

(c) and (d): The following efforts have been made for speedy procurement of custom milled rice by FCI.

- (i) Hiring of godowns wherever available.
- (ii) Deploying staff on holidays for acceptance of custom milled rice.
- (iii) Linking rice millers for delivery of custom milled rice wherever storage space is available.
- (iv) Evacuation of stocks by enhancing movement to other States.
