

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH AUGUST, 2021

QUALITY NORMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOOD GRAIN

†3481. SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has given relaxation in quality norms for the procurement of food grains under the central pool to save the farmers from selling their crops at throw away price during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure remunerative price for the food grains of farmers and to ensure timely procurement of fully stock of food grains by the Government agencies?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Sometimes, due to natural calamities such as unseasonal rains, erratic rainfall, cyclone and adverse climatic conditions affecting the quality of foodgrains, Government allows relaxation in the procurement norms on the request of the concerned State Government to avoid distress sale for the benefit of farmers. The State-wise/ Commodity-wise details of the relaxation allowed during the last three years are at Annexure-I.

(c): Commission of Agriculture Costs and Price (CACP) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare is mandated to recommend the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 agricultural commodities including foodgrains at all India Level and Fair & Remunerative Price for Sugarcane.

Steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices for foodgrains and its timely procurement from farmers are at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3481 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2021 IN LOK SABHA

Details on the State-wise and commodity wise relaxation allowed in procurement norms during last three years:

Year	State	Name of Refraction	Uniform Specifications limit	Relaxed Specifications limit
A. WHEAT				
2018-19	No relaxation has been given in Uniform Specification of Wheat during RMS 2018-19			
2019-20	Madhya Pradesh	Lustre loss	With full Lustre	Upto 70%
	Punjab	Lustre loss	With full lustre	Upto 75%
	Haryana	Lustre loss	With full lustre	Upto 90%
	Uttar Pradesh	Lustre loss	With full lustre	Upto 50 %
	Rajasthan	Lustre loss	With full lustre	Upto 90 %
2020-21	Madhya Pradesh	Lustre Loss	With full lustre	Upto 80%
	Punjab	Lustre Loss	With full lustre	Upto 30%
		Shrivelled & Broken	6.0%	Upto 16 %
	Haryana	Lustre Loss	With full lustre	Upto 50%
		Shrivelled & Broken	6.0%	Upto 10%
	Rajasthan	Lustre Loss	With full lustre	Upto 50%
	Uttar Pradesh	Lustre Loss	With full lustre	Upto 30%
		Shrivelled & Broken	6.0%	Upto 12%
	B. PADDY			
2018-19	Bihar	Moisture	17.0%	19.0%
	Andhra Pradesh	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0%	10%
2019-20	Andhra Pradesh	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0%	10%
	Uttar Pradesh	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0%	9.0%
	Tamil Nadu	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains	5.0%	7.0%
	Bihar	Moisture	17.0%	19.0%
2020-21	Tamil Nadu	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0%	7.0%
		Moisture	17.0%	20.0%
C. RICE				
2018-19	No relaxation has been given in Uniform Specification of rice during 2018-19.			
2019-20	Andhra Pradesh	Damaged /Slightly Damaged Grains	3.0%	4.0%
2020-21	No relaxation has been given in Uniform Specification of rice during 2020-21			

Note: Damaged, sprouted and weevilled grains do not exceed 4% during relaxation in paddy.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3481 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2021 IN LOK SABHA.

Steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices for foodgrains and its timely procurement from farmers are as under:

- 1. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for crops and procures foodgrains at MSP.**
- 2. MSP operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards, radio, TV and advertisements through print & electronic media.**
- 3. Farmers are made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc. to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specifications.**
- 4. Procurement centres are opened 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 regulated mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers for timely purchase of their produces.**
- 5. Farmers directly get the MSP announced by GOI and decided to do away with the levy system of procurement of rice with effect from KMS 2015-16, allowing the entire procurement of paddy to be done only by the State Agencies/FCI.**
- 6. Payment to farmers is done through electronic mode by State Agencies/FCI. Efforts are being made to make the payments to the farmers within 48 hours of purchase.**
- 7. FCI and State Governments have developed their own Online Procurement Systems which ushers in transparency and convenience to the farmers through proper registration and monitoring of actual procurement.**
- 8. Through e-procuring module deployed by procuring Agencies, farmers get latest/updated information regarding MSP declared, nearest purchase centre, date on which the farmer has to bring their produce to the purchase centre etc. This not only reduces the waiting period for delivery of stock by the farmers but also enables the farmer to deliver stock as per his convenience to the nearest mandi.**
