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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3638 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH AUGUST, 2021

PADDY PROCUREMENT

3638. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether Union Government is aware that there is a great delay in releasing the payments of crores of rupees to farmers against paddy procurements done by Andhra Pradesh Government in rabi season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof:
- (c) whether Union Government would interfere in the matter for early settlement of these issues and help the poor farmers who are suffering from financial needs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Andhra Pradesh is a Decentralised Procurement (DCP) state. The procurement of paddy is carried out by State Government through Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSCL). The procurement period of paddy (Rabi crop) in Andhra Pradesh is from 1st April, to 31st August, 2021. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that majority of the paddy pertaining to Rabi 2020-21 was procured during the months of June & July'2021. The payment to farmers was slightly delayed due to exhausting of funds available with APSCSCL. At present the farmers are getting payment within schedule time.

(b): During KM\$ 2020-21 (Rabi crop) 35.54 LMT (as on 4.08.2021) of paddy have been purchased from about 2.97 lakh farmers and a total amount of Rs.6517.97 crore paid to farmers in their account.

(c)and(d): The claims from State Government towards Provisional/Advance food subsidy are processed keeping in view the documents submitted regarding opening and closing balance of stock, procurement, allocation and distribution of food grains, reconciliation of account by Food Corporation of India, Utilization Certificate and Economic Cost of foodgrains etc. amongst others. The admissible amount of Provisional/Advance food subsidy is released to States based on their quarter-wise claims subject to verification of requisite documents.

During current financial year 2021-22, the Government of India has released Rs.686.47 crore on 25.06.2021 and Rs.2616.92 crore on 26.07.2021 towards food subsidy to Andhra Pradesh. All the bills/claims, received from the State Government, were processed and admissible amount towards food subsidy released to them in time.