

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1450
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

DISTRESS OF PADDY FARMERS IN KERALA

1450. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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 is aware of the struggle of paddy farmers in Kerala due to crop procurement issues and delayed payments and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any request/proposal from the State of Kerala to address paddy procurement issues and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details of central assistance provided to Kerala for paddy procurement during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government will consider any special assistance to the State to support the distressed farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (e): Kerala is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State wherein procurement operations are carried out by the State Government and its agencies. The responsibility of payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers rests with the State Government.

Necessary directions have been issued by Government of India to the State Government of Kerala for payment of MSP to farmers preferably within 48 Hours from the issue of procurement receipt and not more than 7 days in any case.

Being a deficit DCP state, the foodgrains procured by the State Govt. of Kerala are consumed within the State. The expenditure (including MSP and other incidental) incurred by the State Government on procurement and distribution of food grains to the beneficiaries of various Central Schemes is reimbursed by the Government of India.

Government of India releases food subsidy as per the relevant clauses of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Govt. of India and State Govt. of Kerala which provide for release of food subsidy on the basis of quarterly claims submitted by the State Govt. for distribution of food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) & Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). The details of funds released to the State Government of Kerala towards food subsidy during last three years and current year are as under:

Financial Year	Amount released (Rs.in Crores)
2021-22	1777.86
2022-23	1544.89
2023-24	1151.85
2024-25 (As on 31.10.2024)	369.86
