

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2536  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**PADDY PROCUREMENT CRISIS**

2536. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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 is aware of the fact that Punjab is facing its worst paddy procurement crisis in over 25 years despite favourable weather conditions;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delays in the procurement process;
- (c) whether the Union Government didn't procure last year's 2 lakh tonnes of rice from millers, causing State godowns to overflow while blocking the movement of wheat and rice;
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the Union Government is responding to private rice millers' refusal to store paddy due to storage limitations, issues with hybrid paddy varieties not meeting FCI standards and challenges with labour and commission arrangements?

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

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(a)&(b): The period of paddy procurement for KMS 2024-25 in the State of Punjab was from 01.10.2024 to 30.11.2024. A quantity of 172 Lakh MT paddy has been procured through arhatiyas by the State govt. agencies including FCI against reported total arrival of 173 LMT in mandi of Punjab. Almost entire paddy has been lifted and stored in the state allotted Rice Mills.

Apart from 1823 regular notified mandies, 951 Public places cum temporary yards and 475 rice mills cum temporary yards were made operational by the State Govt. for paddy procurement at MSP.

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(c) and (d): In Kharif Marketing Season KMS 2023-24, out of 125.13 LMT rice due, 125.05 LMT has been delivered to Central pool leaving balance only 0.08 LMT.

(e): Creation /vacation of godown for receipt /storing incoming stocks is a continuous process by moving out the already stored foodgrains stocks. In order to made additional storage capacity available for receipt/storage of rice after milling of current crop of paddy, measures like prioritising movement/evacuation of wheat stocks kept in covered godowns in the State, additional storage capacity hiring, additional outward movement of rice from Punjab are being resorted to.

Almost entire paddy has been allocated to 4855 registered millers by the State Govt. Agencies for its storage under joint custody and milling.

With respect to issues regarding new hybrid varieties of paddy grown in Punjab, a study has been entrusted to IIT Kharagpur on yield related issue.

Total process of paddy procurement has been completed through the commission Agents, Labour contractor and Transport Contractor.

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