

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4583  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**REDUCTION IN PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT AND PADDY FROM PUNJAB**

**4583. DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL:**

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the delays and reduction in procurement of wheat and paddy from Punjab during the 2024-25 season;
- (b) the reasons for delayed lifting, inadequate availability of gunny bags and any revised procurement norms affecting farmers;
- (c) whether these delays led to distress sales and financial losses and if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely procurement and full payment to farmers;
- (d) whether any compensation is being considered for losses incurred due to procurement delays and policy changes impacting Punjab's 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)**

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(a): The period of procurement of paddy for Kharif Marketing Season and wheat for Rabi Marketing Season is fixed in consultation with respective State Government during the meeting with Food Secretaries of State/UTs.

There has been no delay in procurement of wheat and paddy in Punjab. The date of commencement of wheat and paddy procurement in Punjab during Marketing Seasons 2022-23 to 2024-25 is as under:

Marketing Season	Date of commencement of procurement	
	Wheat	Paddy
2022-23	01.04.2022	01.10.2022
2023-24	01.04.2023	01.10.2023
2024-25	01.04.2024	01.10.2024

The procurement of wheat and paddy in Punjab for central pool during last three Marketing Seasons 2022-23 to 2024-25 is as under:

Marketing Season	Procurement (In LMT)	
	Wheat	Paddy
2022-23	96.45	186.11
2023-24	121.12	185.28
2024-25	124.57	173.33

The procurement of wheat and Paddy in a state is based upon estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern.

(b): Creation /vacation of storage space for receipt /storing incoming stocks is a continuous ongoing process of moving out the already stored stocks of foodgrain. In order to make 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 have been resorted to.

Sufficient quantity of gunny bags was available with all procuring agencies before start of procurement.

(c) to (e): The steps taken by the Government to ensure timely procurement and full payment to farmers are as under:

(i) FCI, the nodal central agency of Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation. Coarse grains/millets in central pool are procured by State Government Agencies only under decentralized procurement system.

(ii) FCI and various State Agencies in consultation with the State Government establish a large number of purchase centers at various mandis and key points. The number of centers and their locations are decided by the State Governments, based on various parameters, so as to maximize the MSP operations. Such extensive & effective price support operations have resulted in sustaining the income of farmers over a period and in providing the required impetus for higher investment in agriculture sector for improved productivity.

(iii) Stocks conforming to the Government of India specifications which are offered by the farmers at purchase centers are procured by the Government Agencies at MSP. If the farmers get prices better than the support price in open market, they are free to sell their produce. Presence of Government Agencies ensures prevention of distress sale of food grains by the farmers.

(iv) Procurement of foodgrains under MSP operations is mandatorily being carried out through State Procurement Portals which has brought in substantial transparency in the process with introduction of registration of farmers for sale of their produce at govt. procuring centers/ mandis, land/crop verification and online payment of MSP directly into the farmer's bank account.

(v) "One Nation, One MSP through DBT" implemented across the country from RMS 2021-22 onwards. Payment of MSP has been ensured directly into farmers' account. DBT of MSP has brought in responsibility, transparency & real time monitoring in the system.

(vi) In order to widen the reach of MSP operations for food grains, Government of India has made a provision for engagement of Co-operative societies/ Self Help Groups/ Panchayats/ Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)/Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) by the State procuring agencies so that maximum farmers, can avail the benefit of price support operations.

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