

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 21
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND DECEMBER, 2025

ISSUES FACED BY PADDY FARMERS IN PALAKKAD

*21. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an expert delegation from the Union Government visited key paddy producing regions in Palakkad district in Kerala recently;
- (b) if so, whether it is also true that the team interacted with paddy farmers across multiple locations and held detailed discussions to understand the ground realities, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether farmers and representatives of various agricultural organizations have urged the team to recommend a special financial package for Palakkad which holds the distinction of being the highest paddy producing district in the State of Kerala;
- (d) whether the farmers are facing crisis triggered by delayed procurement and payment even after the harvest seasons had begun and the steep rise in production costs and urged for corresponding needs for an increase in Minimum Support Price; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government is considering a special package and proposes to take steps to address the issues of paddy farmers in Palakkad, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.21 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND DECEMBER, 2025 REGARDING “ISSUES FACED BY PADDY FARMERS IN PALAKKAD”.

(a) to (c): An interdepartmental team comprising of two senior officers from DA&FW and four scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Indian Institute of Rice Research, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) visited paddy cultivation areas of Alappuzha, Thrissur and Palakkad Districts of Kerala from 23.09.2025 to 26.09.2025.

The team carried out field visits in lower Kuttanad area (Alappuzha), Thrissur and Palakkad districts and conducted series of consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of social organizations, members of the Padasekhara Samitis, Panchayat representatives, farmers' associations, farm labourers, women, government officials from line departments, subject-area experts, academia, civil society groups, non-governmental organizations. Meetings were held with stakeholders in all these districts.

The team identified the problems of paddy farming in these districts which included high cost of paddy production, delayed payment of paddy procurement, payment in the form of Paddy Receipt Slips (PRS) loans, need for proper storage and ware-housing leading to prevent pest and disease attacks, infrastructure related problems for bailing out of water and its carriage from paddy fields etc.

(d): Kerala is a Decentralised Procurement (DCP) state for procurement of paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP). The state government of Kerala has informed that during the initial stages of the procurement cycle this crop season, several rice mills were reluctant to undertake procurement, resulting in interruptions in paddy lifting and efforts were made to address and resolve the challenges involved. To support the farmers, the procurement of paddy in Kerala is done at MSP declared by the Central Government and additional incentive bonus given by the State. The department of food and public distribution have further informed that so far, procurement has been done from 1256 farmers in Palakkad district.

(e): At present, there is no such specific proposal for Palakkad district. The Government of India is implementing various programmes in the state of Kerala for the welfare and benefit of farmers. To enhance food security and nutrition, assistance is being provided to the farmers through the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), for increasing the production and productivity of various crops including Rice. The scheme is being implemented through the state and interventions based on the approved annual action plan, includes demonstrations on latest crop production & protection technologies, distribution of certified seeds, integrated nutrient and pest management measures, capacity building of farmers through cropping system-based trainings, etc. The state is also implementing various schemes aimed at the upliftment of paddy farmers in Palakkad district including Rice Development Programme apart from other infrastructure support.
