

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2765
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

MOISTURE CONTENT IN PADDY

2765. DR. T SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:
KM. SUDHA R:
DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:
THIRU THANGA TAMILSELVAN:

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

- (a): the details of the policy relating to the moisture content at the time of procurement of paddy from farmers;
- (b): the details of the policy decision on the percentage of moisture content from the year 2014 till the current year along with details of the moisture content in paddy during procurement since 2014, State-wise;
- (c): whether the Government has issued any temporary relaxation of paddy procurement moisture norms for example permitting procurement above the standard 14 percent moisture in response to this season's extreme rains and cyclones;
- (d): if so, the exact revised moisture threshold(s), the period of validity and the States/districts where the relaxation applies;
- (e): the measures being taken by the Government to safeguard grain quality, provide storage/transport assistance and prevent distress sales by affected farmers;
- (f): whether the Government proposes any compensation, incentive or market-support package for farmers whose produce is adversely affected by excess moisture and the timelines for implementation;
- (g): whether the Government had constituted and dispatched three teams and visited the rain-affected districts inspecting the harvested crops and collecting paddy samples from DPCs and farmlands in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (h): whether it is true that the Union Government has deputed a team of senior officials to Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu to physically measure moisture levels and assess damage and 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) and (b): The department of Food and Public Distribution issues Uniform Specifications for procurement of foodgrains meant for central pool before commencement of every KMS/RMS including maximum limits for moisture content *i.e.* 17 % in case of paddy. These norms are uniformly applicable throughout the country.

(c): No relaxation has been granted to any State in moisture content of Paddy during KMS 2025-26.

(d): The question does not arise in view to the (c) above.

(e): The Department has formulated and issued a Quality Control Manual, in order to maintain the quality standards of foodgrains from procurement to its distribution to the eligible beneficiaries through various social security programmes of Government of India. The procured foodgrain are stored in godown/silos which are scientifically designed. Further, based on the request received from the state governments, the department assess and accord relaxations in various limits of Uniform Specifications in order to avoid distress sale by farmers.

(f): Currently no such proposal under consideration in the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

(g) and (h): Based on the request received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding relaxation in Uniform Specifications of Paddy for KMS 2025-26, the Ministry deputed, 03 joint teams to assess the extent of loss in affected districts of Tamil Nadu. The joint teams visited 12 affected districts *viz.* Madurai, Theni, Thiruchirapally, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram & Chengalpattu. Based on the report submitted, the relaxation in Damaged/dicoloured/sprouted and weevilled grain was granted in the entire state of Tamil Nadu *vide* letter dated 18.11.2025.
