

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2026

PROCUREMENT OF GRAINS

4338. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a): whether the Government is aware that private traders are lifting grains in Punjab at record levels during the current procurement season;
- (b): if so, the details thereof including the total quantity of rice purchased by private traders compared to Government agencies;
- (c): the reasons for the increased procurement by private traders particularly in relation to higher purchase prices and delayed Government procurement and transportation issues;
- (d): whether incidents of traders buying grains from outside Punjab have been selling grains to procurement agencies in Punjab;
- (e): if so, the details thereof including action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f): the details of steps being taken by the Government to address the challenge faced by farmers due to these developments and to ensure smooth procurement operations in the said State?

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

(a) to (c): The quantities of paddy procured by the State Government agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and those by private traders in Punjab during last 3 Kharif Marketing Seasons (KMS) are as under:

KMS	Qty of Paddy procured by Government agencies – in LMT (% of total)	Qty of Paddy procured by private traders – in LMT (% of total)	Total (in LMT)
2023-24	185.28 LMT (99.7 %)	0.60 LMT (0.3%)	185.88 (100 %)
2024-25	173.33 (99.8%)	0.40 (0.2%)	173.73 (100 %)
2025-26	156.52 (99.94%)	0.17 (0.06%)	156.69% (100 %)

There is no increase in purchase of paddy by private parties in Punjab over previous years.

(d) & (e): As per the reports received from the district offices regarding paddy being purchased at lower rates from outside Punjab and brought into Punjab for sale to procurement agencies, 6 cases of unauthorized paddy and 1 case of unauthorized rice have come to the notice during KMS 2025-26.

In order to prevent such incidents, the Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Govt of Punjab has set up checking barricades at all Inter-State barriers to check the bills of bogus purchase. The police force is provided by DGP Punjab to make these checking barriers more effective.

Besides, Punjab Mandi Board and the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Govt of Punjab have jointly registered 7 FIRs against the involved persons and action has also been taken against four rice millers and a commission agent (arhtiya).

(f): The Grievances Redressal Committees under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners have been constituted comprising of representatives of concerned agency, Mandi Board, Arthiyas, Rice millers and farmers in each mandi to address the problems of farmers and to ensure continuation of smooth procurement. In case a complaint regarding paddy procurement is received from farmers, it is resolved by the committee on the spot.
