

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

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 140  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12 FEBRUARY, 2019  
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

\*140. SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the share of Punjab in procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has declined over the years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether FCI is not even procuring the quota decided at the start of the season and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the decrease in Punjab's share of procurement has led to adverse financial impact on farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to increase the share of procurement from farmers of Punjab and make the procurement process smooth and easier, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. \*140 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.02.2019 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (d): Based on the recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC) on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) headed by Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, at present, FCI is gradually limiting its role in procurement operations of wheat, paddy/rice in the States which have gained sufficient experience in this regard and have created reasonable infrastructure and it is focusing more on the procurement operations in remote and inaccessible parts of the country. However, FCI is also participating in procurement operations in Punjab on the request of State Government of Punjab. Details of the procurement of wheat and paddy done by FCI /State Agencies for Central Pool in Punjab during last three year and current year are as under:

Marketing Year	Procurement of wheat (in LMT)			Procurement of paddy (in LMT)		
	FCI	State Agencies	Total	FCI	State Agencies	Total
2015-16	18.47	84.97	103.44	6.54	133.02	139.56
2016-17	17.48	89.01	106.49	7.66	157.30	164.96
2017-18	14.53	102.53	117.06	3.81	172.80	176.61
2018-19	15.31	111.61	126.92	2.51*	166.60*	169.11*

\*As on 04.02.2019

FCI also takes direct delivery of wheat and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) in its godowns and Railheads from State Procuring Agencies.

As is evident from the details given above, the procurement of wheat and paddy has been increasing in Punjab and hence, the question of adverse financial impact on the farmers does not arise. However, the following steps are taken to make the procurement process smooth and easier:

- i) Before the onset of each marketing season, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India (GOI) holds a consultative meeting with the officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Governments to make an assessment of availability of wheat and paddy for procurement at MSP based on the prospects of production and market situation.

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- ii) Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards, radio, TV and advertisements through print & electronic media.
- iii) Farmers are made aware of the quality specifications and purchase system etc. to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specifications.
- iv) Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government Agencies/ Food Corporation of India (FCI), taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics / infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc.

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