

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:948
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
PADDY AND RICE STOCK IN PUNJAB
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Punjab are holding substantial stocks of paddy/rice for immediate disposal;
- (b) if so, the capacity of the Food Corporation of India to absorb a part of such stocks to build its buffer in terms of storage space;
- (c) whether FCI propose to directly intervene in the Punjab Paddy/Rice market at the moment; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) Punjab region is having stocks of paddy and rice with Food Corporation of India as well as State Government and its agencies as on 31.10.2000 as under :

Figures in lakh MTs

Agency	Rice	Paddy
FCI	46.69	21.43
State Agencies	59.34	
TOTAL	46.69	80.77

(b) At present, FCI has a total storage capacity of 100.99 lakh tonnes (Owned & Hired/ Covered & CAP) in Punjab as on 1.11.2000 as detailed below :

Figures in Lakh MTs

Agency Capacity Stocks held

A. Covered Capacity

FCI owned 21.77 17.35

Hired From
State Govt. 7.04 5.93

C.W.C.	4.11	3.39
S.W.Cs	12.73	12.56
Pvt. Parties	15.36	11.56
TOTAL (Covered)	61.01	50.81

B. CAP (Open) Capacity		
FCI owned	5.43	6.64

Hired	34.55	29.74
TOTAL (CAP)	39.98	36.38

GRAND TOTAL

(Covered & CAP) 100.99 87.19

(c) & (d) : During the current Kharif Marketing Season in Punjab, FCI and State Government/Agencies are procuring paddy in the State under MSP w.e.f. 21.9.2000. As on 21.11.2000, a quantity of 86.08 lakh MTs of paddy has been procured in Punjab Region (FCI = 27.79 lakh MTs, State Govt./ Agencies = 58.29 lakh MTs). FCI has also procured levy rice in Punjab to the tune of 3.61 lakh MTs, and thus, the total procurement of rice and paddy in terms of rice in Punjab stood at 70 lakh MTs, against a quantity of 61.54 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.