

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:967

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001

PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF PADDY

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

- (a) the production of paddy estimated in the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the targets for procurement of paddy fixed under minimum support price schemes, State-wise;
- (c) the details of paddy procured so far under minimum support price scheme, support price scheme, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government would direct the procurement agencies to procure entire paddy production on the minimum support price to save the farmers from exploitation in view of large gap in the price fixed under the minimum support price and the market price of paddy;
- (e) if so, the time by which such direction would be issued;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether Food Corporation of India is not capable to provide adequate storage capacity in States like Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam;
- (h) the steps taken to build new FCI godown in all the States before the paddy crop coming in market; and
- (i) the amount spent on their construction?

Answer

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

(a): The estimates of paddy are not compiled. However, generally rice production is taken to be 2/3rd of paddy production. The estimated production of rice for 2001-2002 is 76.42 million tones. The advance estimates of rice production are made on All India Basis. Hence, State-wise production of rice can not be known unless the crop year is over.

(b): As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to State Government, Food Corporation of India (FCI), or in the open market, as is advantageous to them, no targets are fixed for procurement of paddy.

(c): The details of State-wise procurement of paddy, as on 20.11.2001, are as follows:-

(Fig. In Tonnes)

S.No. State/UT Quantity of paddy procured

1. Andhra Pradesh 911

2. Haryana 15,68,054

3. Himachal Pradesh 38

4. Madhya Pradesh 2971

5. Maharashtra 10,128

6. Punjab 94,19,606

7 Rajasthan 15,658

8. Uttar Pradesh 57,990

TOTAL 110,75,356

(d): The Food Corporation of India and the State Agencies purchase entire paddy stocks offered to them for sale at the Minimum Support Price by the producers conforming to FAQ specifications. However, producers have the option to sell their produce in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

(e)&(f): Do not arise in view of above.

(g): The storage capacity (covered & CAP) and stocks available with the FCI in the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam as on 01.10.2001 are as under:-

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

State	Covered	CAP	Total
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Orissa

Capacity	5.78	0.38	6.16
Stocks held	5.48	0.11	5.59
Utilisation	95%	29%	91%

Andhra Pradesh

Capacity	31.09	4.66	35.75
Stocks held	29.53	3.36	32.89
Utilisation	95%	72%	92%

West Bengal

Capacity	10.55	-	10.55
Stocks held	7.84		7.84
Utilisation	74%		74%

Assam

Capacity	2.99	-	2.99
Stocks held	1.56		1.56
Utilisation	52%		52%

Further, the Field Officers of FCI have been delegated full powers for hiring additional storage capacity as and when considered necessary.

(h)&(i): The Government has decided that there is no need to make new allocation for construction of godowns by FCI except for completion of on-going programmes. The new projects would be promoted in the non-government sector under the new storage policy

of the Government.

FCI has formulated a tentative proposal for the 10th Plan for construction of godowns by FCI with a physical target of 6.78 lakh tonnes and an estimated outlay of Rs. 206 crores.