

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
HANNAN MOLLAH

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

- (a) whether the FCI extended 100% procurement facilities at Minimum Support Price to the States of Punjab and Haryana;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted in the procurement of foodgrains by FCI;
- (c) whether these facilities were not provided to other States as well; and
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the details of corrective steps initiated in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 DUE FOR ANSWER 01-03-2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c)&(d): In Punjab and Haryana, most of the procurement is done by the State Governments and their agencies. Details of procurement made in these two States during the 2001-2002 Marketing Season are given below:-

(in percent)

State	Commodity	Procured by FCI	Procured by State Govt.	Procured by Agencies	Total
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Punjab	Wheat	32.03	67.97	100	
	Paddy	25.27	74.73	100	
Haryana	Wheat	12.98	87.02	100	
	Paddy	12.30	87.70	100	

The procurement is also being made in many other States. FCI, along with the State Governments and their agencies, undertakes procurement of food grains conforming to Fair Average Quality Specifications at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the Central Pool. All the food grains conforming to prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by FCI and State agencies. FCI also collects rice by way of statutory levy on rice millers/ dealers. The procurement level in a State depends, inter alia, upon the capacity of the State Government and its agencies and the infrastructure available.

In order to ensure, inter alia, that the benefit of MSP reaches the farmers, the Government had, in 1997-98, introduced the scheme of Decentralised Procurement. This scheme is now in operation in three States, namely, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Efforts are being made to encourage other States to adopt the scheme.