

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6428
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PROCUREMENT OF PADDY IN KERALA
Manoj Dr. K.S.

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

- (a) the salient features of existing paddy procurement policy in the country;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that the State Government of Kerala has failed to procure paddy from the farmers;
- (c) if so, whether this has led to accumulations/distress sale of paddy by farmers; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Under the existing paddy procurement policy, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Agencies procure paddy offered by the farmers conforming to prescribed specifications at the Minimum Support Prices (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their paddy to FCI/State Agencies or in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

(b), (c) & (d): No, Sir. Procurement of paddy in Kerala was done by Agriculture Co-operative Societies at a price higher than the MSP.