

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2004

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

CUT IN PROCUREMENT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to put on hold the proposal to drastically reduce the quantity of rice to be procured by the States from dealers and millers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry has been pushing for a major reduction in the amount of rice that the States would procure from millers and dealers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the current crop year beginning in October, 2013;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether under the present system, States are allowed to issue a levy order on the produce by rice mills since they are authorised to buy paddy from farmers at MSP; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): In view of increase in direct procurement from the farmers over the years coupled with comfortable central pool rice stock position, initially it was decided by Government that starting from the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2013-14, levy percentage in all the States/ UTs may not be allowed to exceed 25%. However, in view of administrative difficulties expressed by the State Governments, the decision to limit levy percentage to 25% has been deferred for one year.

(c)& (d): No Madam.

(e) & (f): Under the present system, States are allowed to issue levy orders, with the prior concurrence of the Central government under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in exercise of the powers delegated to State Government under Order No. GSR 452(E) dated 25.10.1972 and GSR 800 dated 9.6.1978.