

Title:Need for proper procurement of foodgrains throughout the country-laid.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : The Government has admitted that there are serious shortcomings in its grain procurement, storage and distribution policy and that the action plan for the 'Green Revolution' was based on bad economics, as it concentrated only on a specific region. The off take of foodgrain from the Central pool has declined considerably. This is because the retail market prices of wheat and rice are much lower than that under the Public Distribution System.

When the Green Revolution was initiated in the country, agricultural production and productivity was higher in the eastern parts of the country and in other rainfed areas. But these areas were not considered for the proposed 'Green Revolution'. Though production of paddy and wheat is more in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, procurement by the Central pool is concentrated in Punjab. Had the procurement been done judiciously in all potential areas of the country, the problem of huge costs of transportation to deficit areas would not have risen.

I request the Government to look into it.