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Title : Need to direct FCI to purchase paddy from farmers of Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House relating to a serious situation which has arisen in Orissa due to disruption of paddy procurement operations because of non-cooperation by FCI.

Sir, the State of Orissa is a DCP State and procurement of paddy through State agencies has been increasing rapidly over the last few years. In order to prevent any distress sale of paddy, the State agencies have stepped their effort no doubt but against a target of 11.45 lakh MTs of paddy, the FCI has so far procured only 83,000 MTs of paddy. The State has already procured 38.56 lakh MTs of paddy under the Central pool which is equivalent to about 25.84 lakh MTs of rice against a requirement of 20 lakh MTs of rice for the State. But the State agencies

* Not recorded.

are not being allowed to deliver the rice to FCI on the ground of non-availability of storage space in FCI godowns in the State. Due to lack of availability of space in FCI godowns, FCI is not accepting rice and hence the State agencies are left with huge stocks of CMR and as a result they are not able to procure paddy during the current Kharif season. The requirement of rice for the State for TPDS is only 17 lakh MTs and the excess rice has to be taken over by FCI as per Orissa MoU with FCI. In spite of repeated requests the FCI is only moving 25,000 MTs of rice per month outside the State of Orissa whereas the minimum requirement is to move at least 1.5 lakh MTs of rice per month. Therefore, since the State has already procured more rice than its annual requirement, further procurement can take place only if there is immediate outward movement of rice from Orissa but unfortunately this is not happening in spite of repeated requests made to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food. Also, letters have been written to the hon. Prime Minister by the Chief Minister himself.

Sir, keeping the urgency of the situation in view, I would like to urge upon the Government to intervene and instruct the concerned authorities to ensure movement of at least 1.5 lakh MTs of rice per month from the State of Orissa so that distress sale of paddy in the State can be avoided. Thank you.