

The procurement is done by two methods- Centralized Procurement System and Decentralized Procurement System (DCP). Under Centralized Procurement System, the procurement of foodgrains in Central Pool are undertaken either by FCI directly or State Government agencies procure the foodgrains and handover the stocks to FCI for storage and subsequent issue against GOI allocations in the same State or movement of surplus stocks to other States. The cost of the foodgrains procured by State agencies is reimbursed by FCI as per cost-sheets issued by GOI as soon as the stocks are delivered to FCI. Under the decentralized procurement scheme, the State Government itself undertakes direct purchase of paddy and wheat. Purchase centres are opened by the State Governments and their agencies as per their requirements. The State Governments procure, store and distribute foodgrains under NFSA and other welfare schemes. The Central Government undertakes to meet the entire expenditure incurred by the State Governments on the procurement operations as per the approved costing.

Foodgrains *i.e.* Wheat, Rice & Coarsegrains under PDS, are distributed to the beneficiaries through Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(c) As reported by the State, there are 2324 Fair Price Shops in Manipur.

(d) and (e) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation as per NFSA and transportation of such foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India in the State/UT. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, the issuance of licenses to the FPSs and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

As per guidelines issued by State Government of Manipur, FPS Dealers are appointed by the District Authorities based on the recommendation of District Selection Committee.

Tax expenditure on procurement of foodgrains before and post-GST

2799. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after introduction of GST, Government has reduced its tax expenses on food procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the tax expenditure of Government on food procurement before the GST and after the GST'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) After introduction of GST, the tax expenses of Government of India on procurement of wheat and paddy/ rice has been significantly dropped as there is no GST on foodgrains with effect from 01.07.2017. However, State Governments are imposing various Cesses/Fees like Rural Development Fee, Market Fee, Nirashrit shulk etc. on foodgrains procured within the States even after implementation of GST. The rates of such Cesses levied by State Government vary from State to State.

The total estimated tax expenditure on procurement of wheat and paddy/rice before pre-GST tax rate was ₹ 15357.95 crores whereas tax expenditure on procurement after implementation of GST is ₹ 6531.30 crores based on level of procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2018-19 and procurement of paddy in terms of rice during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2016-17. For rice, as KMS 2017-18 is ongoing and yet to be completed, the previous KMS 2016-17 figure is taken for calculation of estimate.

Weeding out of bogus ration cards

2800. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that linking of Aadhaar with ration cards has helped in weeding out of several bogus ration cards issued under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of number of ration cards issued, linked with Aadhaar and bogus cards found till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In order to identify and weed out duplicate ration cards/ineligible beneficiaries from TPDS, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies -States/UTs have been asked to seed the available Aadhaar numbers of eligible beneficiaries in their ration cards/beneficiaries database. At present 84.36% of total 23.18 Crore ration cards under NFSA at the national level