

- (iv) Regular periodic inspections of stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff.
- (v) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid storage of foodgrains of older vintage in godowns.
- (vi) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (vii) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Procurement of all crops of farmers in Bihar

†1359. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no crop was procured by Government in Bihar last year due to which farmers were not able to get any benefit from their sale;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government would ensure the proper arrangement for cent per cent procurement of farmers' crops under the MSP, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As reported by Government of Bihar, during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2017-18, 7.93 LMT paddy in terms of rice was procured and 6688 purchase centres were operated. 1,63,425 farmers of State were benefitted from Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. During the ongoing KMS 2018-19, 0.02 LMT paddy in terms of rice has already been procured till 13.12.2018.

In Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2018-19, 0.18 LMT of wheat was procured by State Government and its Agencies. A total of 7000 purchase centres were operated by Government of Bihar and 4311 farmers benefitted from Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations.

(c) Bihar is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State with effect from KMS 2013-14 and the procurement operations in respect of paddy and wheat are being carried by the State Government and its Agencies viz. BSFC (Bihar State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation) and PACS, (Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit societies) etc. directly from the farmers under MSP operation for Central Pool Stock.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, the Government of India has launched an umbrella scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA). Under PM-AASHA, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare implements the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra. For oilseeds, DAC&FW also implements the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS). However, States/UTs have the option to choose either PSS or PDPS in a given procurement season with respect to a particular oilseed crop for the entire State. Besides, DAC&FW also implements Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS) for oilseeds on pilot basis and States have the option for implementation of PPSS in district/selected APMC(s) of district involving the participation of private stockist.

Procurement of all crops of farmers

†1360. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any arrangement for 100 per cent procurement of all the crops of the farmers under Minimum Support Price (MSP) as declared by the Prime Minister;

(b) if not, the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (GOI) has declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 24 crops. Following steps are taken for procurement of crops under MSP:—

(i) The Department of Food and Public Distribution, GOI procures wheat and paddy/rice under Decentralized/Centralized Procurement mode, in coordination with State Government Agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool. Under the existing policy, wheat and paddy offered by farmers within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications prescribed in advance by Government of India (GOI), are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Central Pool.

(ii) Coarse grains are procured by State Governments as per the procurement plan

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.