

- (b) whether any official assessment has been conducted regarding the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by the Ministry to address the unrestricted surge in food prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) As per the Consumer Price Index released on 13th November, 2019 by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) based inflation rate for the month of October, 2019 is 7.89% (Provisional) which was 5.11% in September 2019.

Prices of 22 essential food commodities are monitored daily by the Department of Consumer Affairs through Price Monitoring Centers spread across India and appropriate interventions are undertaken by the Government from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items. Such interventions, *inter-alia*, include appropriately utilising trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices. Also, Government incentivize farmers by announcing Minimum Support Prices for increasing production and is implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato. Government banned export of onions and imposed stock limits on traders under Essential Commodities Act on 29.09.19. Government also approved import/procurement of onions for augmenting availability and moderating prices.

Procurement of paddy

2952. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated steps for paddy procurement in the country, including Telangana by ensuring and fixing MSP thereof;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise during the last three years; and
- (c) the cooperation of farmers in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy procurement for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2019-20 was notified by the Government of India *vide* letter dated 19th July, 2019 @ ₹1835 per quintal for grade 'A' and ₹1815 per quintal for common grade for the entire country. Accordingly, paddy procurement by Food Corporation of India (FCI)/ State agencies has started from October, 2019.

Telangana has adopted Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP) under which the State Government itself undertakes direct purchase of paddy from farmers, and also stores, undertakes milling and distributes the procured rice under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Any surplus rice over and above the requirement under NFSA & OWS is received by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool.

State-wise, quantum of paddy procured from the farmers in the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

The number of farmers benefitted from procurement of paddy during last three years are as under:

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of farmers	74,23,783	72,32,216	97,05,105

Statement

Details showing state wise paddy procurement

(Fig. in LMT)

States	KMS 2016-17	KMS 2017-18	KMS 2018-19
Andhra Pradesh	55.59	59.70	71.73
Telangana	53.67	54.00	77.41
Assam	0.69	0.53	1.53
Bihar	18.42	11.84	14.16

States	KMS 2016-17	KMS 2017-18	KMS 2018-19
Chandigarh	0.19	0.21	0.19
Chhattisgarh	60.03	47.87	58.40
Gujarat	0.01	0.01	0.14
Haryana	53.48	59.58	58.83
Jharkhand	2.07	2.14	2.28
Jammu and Kashmir	0.12	0.19	0.14
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.88
Kerala	4.53	4.84	6.94
Madhya Pradesh	19.61	16.35	20.82
Maharashtra	4.61	2.67	8.66
Odisha	54.18	49.06	65.41
Punjab	164.96	176.61	169.16
Nef (Tripura)	0.00	0.00	0.10
Tamil Nadu	2.11	14.87	19.03
Uttar Pradesh	35.14	42.90	48.25
Uttarakhand	10.54	0.57	6.89
West Bengal	28.28	24.60	29.11
TOTAL	568.23	568.54	660.06

**Selling of food items at malls, cinema halls and luxury
hotels at exorbitant rates**

2953. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that mails, cinema halls and luxury hotels sell food items at exorbitant rates way above the MRP;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that pricing of food items sold in malls, cinema halls and luxury hotels is far more than that of the same products sold outside in markets; and