

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.877
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024

NFSA FOR PADDY PROCUREMENT TO WEST BENGAL

877 SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether funds/dues for paddy procurement under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have been withheld from disbursal to the State of West Bengal; and
- (b) if so, the total amount withheld and the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (b): Payment of admissible amount to States for Central Pool procurement of food grains is made by Food Corporation of India (FCI)/ Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) on the basis of the claims made by State Governments and their agencies as per the Cost Sheet, which includes Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the food grain and other incidentals. Further, provisional food subsidy is released to States that have opted for Decentralized Procurement (DCP) mode, including West Bengal, on the basis of their quarterly food subsidy claims, which is an ongoing and continuous process. The responsibility of procurement of paddy and making payment of MSP to the farmers rests with the State Government. These claims are processed keeping in view the opening and closing balance of stocks, procurement, allocation and distribution of food grains, Food Corporation of India's reconciliation, Utilization Certificates received, Economic Cost of food grains etc. Despite pendency of compliance to certain guidelines by the State, DFPD, Government of India has been continuously releasing admissible amount of food subsidy to the Government of West Bengal against their claims and the details of the same for the last three years are as under:

| Year | Amount Released (Rupees in Crore) |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2020-21 | 8792.03 |
| 2021-22 | 5421.34 |
| 2022-23 | 6580.11 |
