

## **Regarding need to increase the moisture content of paddy and enhance the procurement quota by FCI in Tamil Nadu-Laid**

**SHRI MURASOLI S. (THANJAVUR):** There is a record level of paddy production in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the delta districts of the State during the Kharif season this year. Paddy procurement which stood at 4.81 Lakh metric tonnes during the year 2024-25 has increased to 14.11 Lakh metric tonnes during current year. This is a record level of paddy procurement in the history of Tamil Nadu during any Kuruva (Kharif) season. In this regard, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal dated 8.8.2025 to the Union Government suggesting that the paddy procurement target should be fixed at 20 lakh metric tonnes during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26, by the Department of Food and Public Distribution of Government of India. But now the Department of Food and Public Distribution of Government of India has fixed the target for paddy procurement up to 31.3.2026 as 16 lakh metric tonnes. In view of this record level of paddy harvest and paddy production, I urge upon the Union Government to allow Tamil Nadu Government to revise and increase the total paddy procurement as per their requirement during the last quarter of the current Kharif season even though the Union Government has fixed the procurement of paddy for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) of 2025-26 as 16 lakhs metric tonnes. Keeping in view of the rains due to the ongoing North East monsoon in the Cauvery delta and other districts of Tamil Nadu, the moisture content of paddy meant for procurement should be fixed at 22 percent instead of the existing 17 percent. Moreover, the State Government should be allowed to increase the moisture content of paddy, while procurement, as per the requirement. Keeping in view, the livelihood of the farmers, I therefore urge upon the Union Government to accede to the request of the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard.