

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
PROCUREMENT BY FCI
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

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

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has stopped procuring rice and paddy from farmers in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure the procurement of paddy and rice from the farmers in that State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S L MAHARIA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): With a view to enable the farmers to avail the benefit of the minimum support price of paddy and to avoid distress sale of paddy, the specifications for procurement of paddy in Orissa have been relaxed by the Government of India with effect from 11.6.2003 during the current Kharif Marketing Season. The FCI has opened 20 centres in the State for procurement of paddy and has so far procured 497 tonnes of paddy. A quantity of 7.28 lakh tonnes of levy rice has also been procured by the FCI in Orissa upto 22.7.2003.