

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3754
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
RELAXATION IN SPECIFICATION FOR PROCUREMENT
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) The targets fixed for production and procurement of wheat and paddy during the ensuing season ;
- (b) Whether the Government has decided to relax procurement specifications regarding moisture content in foodgrains in view of delayed rain in some parts of the country; and
- (c) If so, the details thereabout ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) : The target of production, as reported by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, in respect of crop year 2006-07 is 928 lakh tonnes for rice and 755 lakh tonnes for wheat.

As per the existing policy, no targets for procurement of foodgrains are fixed. However, procurement estimates for wheat and rice are drawn up based on the estimates given by the State Food Secretaries before the respective Marketing Seasons. The estimate for procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) for Kharif Marketing Season

(KMS) 2006-07 is 270 lakh tonnes. The estimate for procurement of wheat for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 will be drawn up in February 2007.

(b&c): Yes, Sir. Based on the request of States the specifications for wheat were relaxed in respect of Madhya Pradesh in RMS 2006-07, while in KMS 2006-07 they have been relaxed for 3 States in respect of paddy and one state for Maize. Details are given in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b)&(c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3754 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

During Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07, on the request of Government of Madhya Pradesh following relaxation has been allowed in respect of wheat:

- (a) Relaxation in luster lost grains allowed upto 40% with value cut.
- (b) Damaged grains allowed upto 3% against the existing limit of 2% with value cut.

2. During Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 based on the requests received from the State Governments following relaxations have been granted:

Tamil Nadu:

In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale, it has been decided to relax the maximum limit of moisture content in paddy upto 20% against the existing limit of 17% and damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weeviled grains upto 5% against existing limit of 3% with full value cut, which has further relaxed upto 22% over and above 20% all ready allowed with full value cut.

Orissa:

1. The maximum limit in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weeviled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.
2. The maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided

under uniform specifications with full value cut.

Paddy procured under relaxed specifications has been allowed reductions in out turn ratio (OTR) by 2%. Accordingly, the out turn ratio stands reduced to 65% for raw rice against the existing limit of 67% and 66% for par boiled rice against the existing limit of 68% in case of custom milled rice, obtained from the paddy procured under relaxed specifications.

Andhra Pradesh:

In order to avoid distress sale Government of India has relaxed the following specifications for the Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 as under:

Maize:

1. The existing limit of 1.5% in respect of damaged grains has been relaxed upto 2.5%.
2. The existing limit of 3.0% in respect of shriveled and immature grains has been relaxed upto 4.5%

Paddy:

1. The maximum limit in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weevilled grains allowed upto 13% (Damaged, discoloured, sprouted grains will not exceed 4%, 5% and 4% respectively) against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.
2. The maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shriveled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.

Rice:

Sl. No.	Refraction - /Grade `A`	-Raw Rice/Common Grade `A`	- Parboiled Rice Common/ Grade `A`	
	Existing limit %	Relaxation allowed %	Existing limit %	Relaxation allowed %
1	Broken	25 28 16	17	
2	Damaged/Slightly damaged grains	2 3 4	4.5	
3	Discoloured grains	3 5 5	8	