

ALL ODISHA RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION

S-3/36 , Sec-A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Indl. Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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PRESS RELEASE.

Rice Mills are overflowing with finished Rice awaiting delivery. **Mills are closed and Paddy Milling has come to stand still.**

Rice Mills have not been able to deliver Rice smoothly to Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation or Food Corporation of India godowns for want of storage space for quite some time. The position is getting worst day by day without any sign of relief.

This year, a tentative target of 28 lakh Metric Ton Rice is proposed in the Food Policy for 2011-12 Khariff Marketing Season. Against this, paddy equivalent to about 21.40 lakh MT Rice has already been received by Millers till 30.4.12 while the Rice delivery is only about 8.20 lakh MT.

An estimated 2 lakh MT or 20 lakh quintal of ready rice is lying with the millers in their rice mills. This rice is lying because no space is available in RRC/SWC/CWC and FCI godowns.

The Resultant Problem:

Due to accumulation of rice stock in mills, there is no further space with the millers to keep rice and further milling of paddy is not possible. Millers are incurring loss due to stoppage of work in the mill. This will delay milling of paddy and paddy stocks lying with the millers is likely to get damaged. There are enough thunder storms and rainy season is not far away. Millers are having sleepless nights.

Quality of Rice will also deteriorate and millers will face problem in delivery of this rice afterwards.

Millers will not be able to receive further Paddy under ensuing Rabi Crop and problem of distress sale may arise.

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Why this problem?

The average annual requirement of rice in Odisha under PDS and other social schemes is estimated at about 20 lakh ton as against the average procurement of about 28 to 30 lakhs since last several years. The annual surplus of about 8 lakh ton rice needs to be moved out side the State which is not happening.

There is shortage of godowns and FCI is also bringing wheat from other States thereby reducing its existing space for storage of local rice.

Solution of the problem:

State Government is creating additional storage space by construction of new godowns. Some godowns have already been constructed while work is in progress on the remaining. But this alone can not solve the overall problem.

The one and only solution of this problem is “export of annual surplus of about 10 lakh ton rice to some other States on regular basis”. *The matter needs to be taken with Central Government at the highest level for movement of at least 2 lakh tone rice immediately as a temporary measure.*

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