

Speech of Thiru R. Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu at the Conference of Food Ministers of States / Union Territories on 5th July, 2023.

Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry,
Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and
Textiles,

Hon'ble Union Ministers of State,

Hon'ble Ministers from all States and Union territories,
Senior officials from the Union, States and Union territories.

On behalf of our beloved leader and Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Textiles permitting us to procure paddy from 1st September 2022 for the current Kharif season. We also request to permit Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to procure paddy from 1st September, 2023 with

the increased MSP announced by the Government of India for the Kharif Marketing Season 2023-24 also.

We thank the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer affairs, Food & Public Distribution & Textiles for releasing the subsidy then and there. We also request the Honourable Union Minister to arrange to release the subsidy claimed for the previous years.

In our State, on an average 98.15 % of the transactions at fair price shops are done through Biometric authentication which ensures that real card holders are benefitted under Public Distribution System.

Tamil Nadu has been implementing the Universal Public Distribution System for more than 40 years, extending the ambit of Food Security to all categories of people without discrimination of income or social status even after introduction of the National Food Security Act, 2013 with effect from 1.11.2016.

In Tamil Nadu, wheat consumption has increased due to change in food habits. Tamil Nadu is not a wheat producing State and depends on supply from other States.

We were getting allotment of 30648 of wheat MT per month upto May'2022. Now we are getting only 8532 MT of wheat per month from June'2022. We request you to allot additional 15000 MT of wheat per month instead of Rice or supply under OMSS.

In Tamil Nadu we have implemented two kilograms of Ragi distribution to family card holders in Dharmapuri and Nilgiris Districts. We are also taking efforts to increase the production of Millets in our state. If we are supplied with sufficient quantity of Millets, the scheme of supply of Millets can be implemented in all the districts.

We need about 60,000 MT per month of rice apart from regular NFSA allotment for Public Distribution system and Noon Meal Scheme as we are implementing Universal Public Distribution System even before introducing of NFSA. Hence, we request you to kindly allot 60000 MT of Rice per month under OMSS which would also help in Price Control.

I assure that under the visionary leadership and guidance of our beloved leader and Hon'ble Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K. Stalin, Tamil Nadu will work together with the Union Government and other State Governments towards providing Food and Nutrition security to all in this country.

Thank you!

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