

Food Corporation of India **Headquarters: New Delhi**

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Press Release

Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India launched a short film on Procurement operations and DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) of MSP (Minimum Support Price) to the farmers' account.

Shri Atish Chandra, CMD, FCI welcomed Hon'ble Minister on his maiden visit to FCI Headquarters and briefed him about FCI's operations on procurement, storage, movement and distribution of foodgrains across the country.

Addressing the staff and officers of Food Corporation of India spread across the country through Video Conferencing from FCI (Food Corporation of India) Headquarters in New Delhi during the Launch he said, the Government is committed to the welfare of farmers and successful implementation of DBT of MSP is a testimony to such commitment.

He said, the Central Government is committed to extend price support to farmers. Wheat and paddy are being procured through FCI and State Agencies at MSP wherever required. He also congratulated CMD, FCI, Sh. Atish Chandra, to have achieved this feat within a short span of few months and thanked all the staff and officers of the corporation for showing a team spirit to make the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision into a success.

Welcoming the Hon'ble MoS and all the participants during the launch ceremony, Sh. Atish Chandra also explained about several other initiatives taken by FCI to make the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' into a reality, especially with respect to self-sufficiency of food. He said, the prime mandate of FCI is to procure wheat and rice at MSP, safely store them for transporting to deficit regions and make them available to state government for PDS (Public Distribution) requirements under NFSA.

The Minister also lauded this year's efforts of FCI for procuring highest ever food grains under Central Pool i.e. wheat and paddy and also for transporting highest amount of food grains during Covid-19 pandemic across the country. He said when others were inside homes, FCI staff and officers worked day and night to make food grains available to every needy citizen under NFSA (National Food Security Act) allocation and PMGKAY (Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna). FCI has ensured that all beneficiaries of PMGKAY get 5 kg free food grains per month for 15 months.

The Minister also underlined the Government's commitment to take care of the weakest person of the society and also raise infrastructure for food security

operations across the country, especially storage infrastructure being modernized through its schemes of silos construction in hub and spoke model. Other initiatives taken by FCI include improved IT infrastructure, such as implementation of Depot Online System (DOS) making all depot transactions efficient and transparent, Financial Accounting Package (FAP) and Bill Tracking System (BTS) for easy and smooth payments to all stakeholders, online procurement portal to facilitate Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to farmers.

In order to assess the ground level situation regarding the benefits of directly transferring money into farmers account for sale of their produce at minimum support price (MSP), CMD of FCI Shri Atish Chandra interacted with farmers of Roza and Sandi mandis in Uttar Pradesh and Kala Amb mandi in Himachal Pradesh through video conferencing.

During interaction Shri Satpal Singh of Shahwaz Nagar informed that he sold about 82 quintals paddy and got the payment at MSP within 24 hours into his account. Similarly Shri Ashok Kumar pandey sold 32 quintals and got his full payment within 24 hours.

Another farmer Shri Dharmendra Singh informed that many farmers of his village got benefited by this scheme of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of MSP into farmers' account. Similarly, Shri Navneet Kumar of Kala Amb mandi in Himachal Pradesh informed that he sold about 60 quintals of paddy at MSP for the first time and got his payment within 24 hours into his account. The procurement of paddy in Himachal Pradesh at MSP is taking place for the first time, that too with DBT into farmers account.

While concluding the interaction programmes with farmers, CMD of FCI directed all General Managers of Regional Offices to conduct similar interaction programmes regularly with farmers so that any hitch on DBT within 24 hours is swiftly resolved. He stressed that the DBT scheme of the government must be taken to farmers in every state.
