ALL ODISHA RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE.

Rice Millers can not function with "Empty Stomach" and in an Atmosphere of Uncertainty.

There is growing resentment amongst the millers due to indifferent attitude towards the custom millers from our own Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC). No one appears to be serious about timely payment of legitimate dues to the millers. Rates are not finalized in time and bills are being held up for no fault of the millers. Some of the main points of resentment is as follows:-

- 1. Representation for Revision of Transport charges and incidentals was submitted during the *meting convened by Hon'ble Minister, FS&CW Dept being held at Pantha Niwas on 31st October*, 2015 before start of procurement operations for current KMS 2015-16. After several sittings, a consensus was arrived during the joint meeting held at FS&CW Dept on 8-3-2016 under Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Govt, Fscw Dept. Unfortunately, the agreed rates have not yet been communicated even after lapse of more than 7 months of current year 2015-16.
- 2. Millers are not able to get timely payment of bills against services performed by them and this has become a regular feature now a days. Full payment of transport charges bills for previous KMS 2014-15 has also been not yet made in many districts citing various excuses. It is not possible for the millers to run their industry with empty stomach for months and years together.
- 3. Restriction on free sale trading for millers engaged in Custom Milling of Paddy as per recently introduced Notification "Odisha Rice and Paddy Procurement and Custom Milling of Rice Order,2016" is very unfortunate. This will adversely affect the existing rice milling industry. Farmers in general and "Bhaga Chasi" in particular will also suffer badly being left out by State Procurement Agencies. Simultaneous functioning of both Custom Milling and Free Sale needs to be allowed as before.

A general body meeting of our Association was held today morning to discuss these issues. After detailed deliberations, it is resolved that:-

"Rice millers can not function with empty stomach and in an atmosphere of uncertainty any more. They will refrain from transportation and handling of Paddy/Rice w.e.f. 1st June, 2016 till the rates are finalized and payments are cleared. We will continue milling of paddy while the OSCSC has to make its own arrangement for transportation and handling."

Sd/-. (Subash Ch. Panda) Vice-President (HQ). Sd/-. (Santosh Kr. Agrawal) Chairman.

