

ALL ODISHA RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION

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

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Dated 30th October, 2017.

To,
The Commissioner-cum-Secretary,
Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751001.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Submissions on procurement operation for KMS 17-18.

Most respectfully, we would like to thank your honour for allowing us to put up few matters relating to procurement operations during the current KMS 2017-18. A general Body meeting of our association was held yesterday at Hotel La Franklin, Bhubaneswar and after elaborate discussions, it was unanimously resolved to put up some of the points before your honour as follows:-

1. ***Furnishing two additional millers as guarantors:*** Norms for furnishing security deposit is already at its peak compared to all previous years. Further requirement of furnishing two additional millers as guarantors may be removed. The millers will accept whatever quantity of paddy considered to be delivered by the Corporation against the security deposit furnished by them.
2. ***Removal of newly introduced provision for imposing penalty of Rs.10,000/- on miller in case a rice lot is subsequently found to be BRL at a belated stage in the RRC since at the time of delivery, miller is already under obligation to take back the lot if it is not found FAQ after stringent quality checks.***
3. ***Gunny depreciation/usage charges:*** 4 bags are required for packing of paddy equivalent to 1 quintal of rice. The recent guidelines for ***use of 2 pc New and 2 pc Once used(old) gunny bags*** for packing, transportation, handling and storage of paddy do not appears to be workable on the part of millers. ***Let Corporation supply gunny bags of his choice for packing of paddy and delivery of CMR in paddy released bags.*** Miller will neither claim any gunny usage charges nor share any responsibility towards quality of such bags while delivery of CMR. ***Alternatively,*** we may be allowed to use 4 pieces of once used old gunny bags for paddy as per earlier practice subject to reimbursement of cost @Rs.7/25 per pc as fixed by GOI.

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4. ***Communication of rates payable to millers for KMS 2017-18:*** The rates of various incidentals and other charges payable to the custom millers for KMS 2017-18 may be finalized and communicated before commencement of paddy procurement as was done in the previous year. This will help in removing an atmosphere of uncertainty and also avoid any future dispute. ***Discontinuation of payment for handling charges on rice in the midst of procurement season during KMS 2016-17 is quite unfortunate and needs to be restored. Lowering of gunny depreciation charges after completion of paddy procurement during KMS 2015-16 & 2016-17 is also a matter of serious concern.***
5. Millers are not properly reimbursed with the charges incurred by them in providing various services while there is ***no genuine intent to clear*** miller's dues in a time bound manner. Payments are with-held on any “xyz grounds”.
6. Proper compliance to the recent ***Guidelines for stacking/storage of paddy*** requires a lot of infrastructure and ***financial implications***. It is not feasible against payment of just Rs.2/40 per quintal for few months ***which is nothing but just a fraction of what they themselves incur while storing food grains***. Your honour may kindly appreciate that paddy procurement is a time bound operation ***to be concluded in a very short span of period on war footing and chances of disruption in paddy procurement*** cannot be ruled out in case of any deviation in the long tested existing system.
7. ***Development of infrastructure at Mandi Level:*** There is a need to develop proper infrastructure at Mandi level to bring awareness amongst the farmers to ensure availability of FAQ Paddy. ***To start with, paddy cleaners may be installed at least in few selected Mandies as envisaged in the Food and Procurement Policy for KMS 2017-18 under clause-7.6.2 “Farmers getting paddy to PPCs” on trial basis.***
8. ***Arrangement for adequate space to receive CMR:*** This is most vital in ensuring timely delivery and proper utilization of milling capacity. In many cases, millers have to wait for months together and yet they are unnecessarily blamed and abused for things beyond their control. ***Koraput*** is an example where ***majority of the millers might not find themselves eligible to participate in the ensuing season*** and procurement is likely to get affected.
9. ***Participation of Aorma in weekly review meetings:*** The participation by Aorma representatives in weekly review meetings be continued as per earlier practice. This immensely helps in resolving many issues across the table for better compliance.

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10. ***Settlement of pending matters:*** There are various financial and other matters pertaining to KMS 2015-16 and 2016-17 which are pending and needs to be resolved at Corporation level. ***Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd may kindly be requested to convene a full fledged meeting with millers to settle and resolve the issues amicably at his earliest convenience by next week.***

11. A suitable proceeding of today's meeting may kindly be prepared at FS&CW Department for reference and information.

An atmosphere of distrust and uneasiness is prevailing which needs to be cleared in the interest of mental peace and smooth functioning of the system. Good health of the Rice Milling Industry is equally important to keep Farmers in good health.

Sir, we sincerely express our gratitude for hearing our submissions and assure our wholehearted support in successful implementation of the Government Policies at all times.

Bhubaneswar 30th October, 2017.

Yours faithfully



Sd/-.
(Santosh Kr. Agrawal),
Chairman.

(All Odisha Rice Millers Association)