

Foreigners shown interest in Chhattisgarh's products

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Ranchi,

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel today met Union Food and Public Distribution Minister Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan and reiterated his demand for increasing Chhattisgarh's rice procurement limit under central pool. He also requested Union Minister to increase allocation of food grains under NFSA as per the population of the state.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that the state is expecting procurement of 85 lakh metric tons of paddy at support price in Kharif year 2019-20 and is interested in contributing its surplus rice to the central pool for National Food Security Act (NFSA). Chief Minister had written a letter to the Union Minister yesterday requesting permission to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to procure 32 lakh metric tons of rice from Chhattisgarh under the central pool.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel apprised Union Minister Mr. Paswan of the efforts made by the State Government in creating conducive environment for farmers by providing fair price and market for their produce.

He said foreigners have shown a keen interest in products from Chhattisgarh at international buyers-sellers meet, which was organized in the larger interest of farmers of the state. Union Food Minister Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan appreciated initiatives being taken by Chhattisgarh Government.

During the meeting, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr. Bhupesh Baghel requested Union Minister Mr. Paswan to extend the approved procurement limit for 'usna' rice from 24 lakh metric tons to 28 lakh metric tons and 4 lakh metric tons for 'arwa' rice. Chief Minister also demanded opening of new base depots in Gariyaband, Kawardha, Bemetara, Mungeli and Pendra Road as rice mills in these areas are far from the base depot. He also demanded reopening of Kurud procurement centre. He requested Mr. Paswan to increase allocation of food grains under NFSA for Chhattisgarh as it has been done as per 2011 census. He stated that there has been an increase of 17 per cent in the population of Chhattisgarh since 2011 census. He also demanded additional quota other than free sale quota for cooperative sugar mills in the state. The union minister assured Chief Minister Mr. Baghel that the Centre will consider his demands and

act accordingly.

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