

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2374
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
FIXATION OF RICE SPECIFICATIONS .
VINOD KHANNA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the scientific criteria laid down for fixation of rice specifications;
- (b) the rationale behind changing the rice specifications every year; and
- (c) the reasons for non-acceptance of the revision demanded by the Government of Punjab? A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b) The quality standard (uniform specification) for the procurement of foodgrains including rice are prescribed every year before the commencement of the marketing season for adoption uniformly by all the grain procuring agencies. The comments from all the State Governments/Union Territories and the FCI are obtained in the matter and then keeping in view their comments, weather and crop condition, overall availability, supply and demand position, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

(PFA) standards and quality of the previous crop, the specifications are formulated. The standards so formulated are passed on to the State Governments, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other procuring agencies for adoption. The State Governments notify the standards for their levy order, price control order etc. as the case may be so as to give these standards a legal shape. The standards lay down the limit for various refractions such as foreign matter, brokens, damaged/slightly damaged, discolored, chalky, red grains, dehusked grains, moisture content, etc. These standards are followed strictly by all the agencies making purchases for central pool at fixed minimum support price.

(c) The demands of the Government of Punjab with regard to specification of parboiled rice and moisture have been accepted by the Government. Demands with regard to other refractions such as damaged/slightly damaged grains, discolored grains, small brokens etc. could not be accepted in the interest of the rice consumers since such refractions affect the cooking quality and merchantability of rice.