

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5055  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002  
INFERIOR QUALITY RICE IN FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME  
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether rice supplied under the `Food for Work` programme to the State Governments has been found to be of very poor quality;
- (b) whether the poor quality of rice was procured from the State of Punjab;
- (c) if so, the State Governments which have declined to accept rice procured from Punjab;
- (d) whether the quality of rice procured from Punjab was checked before its procurement;
- (e) if so, the reasons for the refusal to accept Punjab's rice; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to supply good quality rice to States?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SH. KRISHNAM RAJU )

(a)&(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Yes, sir. Procurement of rice during each kharif season is done by technically qualified staff posted at each procurement center who ensure procurement strictly as per the quality specifications laid down by the Government.

(e): No complaint has been received regarding refusal to accept Punjab rice.

(f): The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains including rice are supplied to the States :-

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) the officers of the State Governments` and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.