

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4343
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
ROTTING OF RICE
BASUDEB ACHARIA;DUKHA BHAGAT;MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

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

- (a) whether about 30 lakh tons of rice of `relaxed specification` is lying unclaimed as none of the consumers states accepted the inferior quality rice;
- (b) if so, whether another 3 lakhs tons of Category `d` rice being not fit for human consumption could not be released;
- (c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to utilize these rice;
- (d) whether the Government agrees that something is terribly wrong in food procurement, storage and distribution system; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken against the official who are responsible for colossal losses to the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

- (a) No Sir. Only 18.31 lakh tons of rice, out of 143.39 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specification, was lying with the Food Corporation of India(FCI) as on 1.3.2000.This rice is near to the Fair Average Quality (FAQ), well within PFA Standard, and is being supplied to various States for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).However, some of the States have shown reluctance in accepting such rice particularly that procured in Punjab.
- (b) & (c): As on 1.3.2000, 1.96 lakh tons of `D` category rice was available with FCI which is fit for human consumption and issue under normal channel after necessary upgradation by cleaning. The `D` category rice is disposed off through tender sale.
- (d) No Sir. Foodgrains are procured in conformity with Uniform/Relaxed Specifications laid down by the Government, and are stored in a scientific manner in the godowns/CAP complexes. Foodgrain stocks conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued to various State Governments for distribution under TPDS.
- (e) Does not arise.