

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6897  
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003  
SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY RICE/WHEAT TO STATES BY FCI  
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality rice and wheat supplied to some States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) under public distribution system (PDS);
- (b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in that regard during last three years this year till date alongwith the names of States; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government thereafter?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI S L MAHARIA )

(a),(b)&(c): Foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to the Prevention of food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under Public Distribution System (PDS).

Some complaints about the quality of foodgrains supplied under the PDS were received during the last three years.

During 2000-2001, complaints were received from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Sikkim and Tripura regarding supply of foodgrains of poor quality, especially rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS). Keeping in view the reluctance of consumers, the supply of URS rice of 1997-98 Kharif Marketing Season was stopped.

During 2001-2002, the Government of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of lustre lost wheat while the Government of Goa and Kerala complained about the poor quality of rice stocks. It was explained to the State Governments that, except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, especially in terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers were instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only was supplied under the PDS to Goa and Kerala.

During 2002-2003, the Government of Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra had complained about issue of poor quality of 'lustre lost' wheat under PDS and Government of Karnataka and Kerala had complained about the issue of poor quality of rice under various schemes. Keeping in view the reluctance of consumers, the issue of lustre lost wheat for distribution under TPDS was stopped. FCI was instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only is supplied under the PDS in Karnataka and Kerala.

No complaint has been received from any State during this year regarding supply of poor quality rice and wheat by FCI under PDS.

The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of Inspector to check the quality of stocks.