

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3903  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003  
PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTANDARD PADDY  
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the FCI has any mechanism to ensure fair quality of paddy and other foodgrains are procured;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any deviations have been noticed in this regard particularly at Bathinda and Sangrur district of Punjab;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the corrective steps taken in this regard; and
- (f) the action taken against the persons responsible for procuring sub-standard paddy and other foodgrains during the above period, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures foodgrains as per the uniform specification norms fixed by the Government of India. Technical Assistants are posted in the mandies by FCI for purchase of paddy and other foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP). Besides, Senior Officers viz. AM (QC)/DM(QC), District/Regional/Zonal officers of FCI also visit the mandies to inspect and ascertain the quality of paddy and other foodgrains purchased.

(c),(d),(e)&(f): In the Comptroller & Auditor General of India's Report No.4 of 2003 (PSUs), it was observed that in Bhatinda and Sangrur districts, substandard rice was accepted at large scale by technical staff in connivance with the officers upto the level of District Manager and beyond rejection limit (BRL) rice valued at 171.46 crore (quantity 1.72 lakh MT) during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) have stated that sub-standard rice was not accepted in large scale in Bhatinda/Sangrur districts by technical staff. The details of the quantity of rice procured and quantity declared BRL in Bhatinda and Sangrur district is as under:

Quantity of rice procured in Lakh MTs    Quantity of rice declared BRL in MTs

District	1999-2000	2000-2001	1999-2000	2000-2001
Bhatinda	4.62	5.27	5848 (1.26%)	19159 (3.6%)
Sangrur	11.27	12.40	11294 (1%)	42362 (3.41%)

Some quantity of BRL stocks were detected by various squads during the inspection. Action has already been initiated by FCI in respect of 197 cases where BRL stocks were detected by various inspection squads in Bhatinda and Sangrur. Action has also been initiated by FCI against five class I officers including District Manager, Sangrur/Bhatinda.

Various steps have been taken to ensure purchase of stocks i.e. wheat, paddy and rice strictly conforming to specifications like:

- (i) Squads from district/regional/zonal/hqrs. of FCI and Ministry are deputed to mandies/depots to exercise quality related checks,
- (ii) In case of detection of purchase of sub-standard stocks, action is taken against the delinquents, and

(iii) Concerned State Governments have been advised to provide infrastructure facilities including power cleaners, pucca mandi yards etc. at mandies to facilitate purchase of good quality stocks.