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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3540 ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005 SUPPLY OF INFERIOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS Barman Shri Hiten;Barman Shri Ranen;Bose Shri Subrata;Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

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

(a) whether complaints regarding the quality of foodgrains being distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS) have been received by the Government during the last three years and the current year, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether lapses/negligence of officials engaged in the inspection and storage maintenance work have been detected;

(d) if so, the action being taken against those held guilty; and

(e) the reasons for failure of timely inspection, issuing certificates without inspection, improper foodgrain quality control measures and lack of storage management scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No complaints regarding the quality of foodgrains being distributed through Public Distribution System has been received from any State Government/UT Administration during the last three years and till date. However, the Governments of Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra had complained about issue of poor quality 'lustre lost' wheat under PDS while the Government of Karnataka and Kerala had complained about the issue of poor quality of rice under various schemes during 2002-2003. Similarly, during 2003-2004 Government of Kerala complained about receipt of inferior quality rice from Punjab. Keeping in view the reluctance, the issue of `lustre lost` wheat for distribution under PDS was stopped and FCI was instructed to ensure supply of good quality rice only for the PDS. A complaint received from President, Shahide Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Balidan Diwas Sanyojan Samiti, Meerut and Secretary, Deshbhakt Society, Meerut regarding distribution of damaged wheat to below poverty line families in district Meerut, UP during 2004-2005 was got investigated through the State Government and no substance was found in it.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.