

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:76  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006  
EXPORT OF PDS RICE  
Masood Shri Rasheed

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding export of rice meant for distribution under Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the inter-relation between production, procurement, distribution and export of rice during the previous year has been affected due to diversion of such rice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such diversions?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 76 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Based on a news item telecast by a TV Channel on 16.10.2006, regarding export of PDS rice, a factual position was called for from the Government of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat reported that on inspection of a premises/godowns of a firm in Chudva, District Kutch, it was noted that the firm had stored 6401.508 MTs rice at seven different places for which the firm failed to produce purchase bills. Stacking of rice bags was haphazard, so that it was difficult to count. Moreover, most of rice bags had labels of FCI, so there was reason to believe that these rice may be of PDS quota. District Supply Officer (DSO) of the Government of Gujarat seized 3401.200 MT basmati rice and 3000.308 MT non-basmati rice. The Collector, Kutch released 3401.200 MT basmati rice as basmati rice is not distributed under PDS.

(c) & (d): There is no shortage of rice in the country and the requirement under Public Distribution System are being fully met.

(e): The Government is taking necessary steps to curb diversion/leakage of TPDS foodgrains. A system to monitor distribution of foodgrains and other goods being distributed under PDS is already in place. Under the System, the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains and other goods through PDS outlets lies with the respective State Government. However, after consulting all the State Food Ministers/Food Secretaries, an Action Plan has been prepared on ways to curb leakages/diversions under TPDS. The Action Points include undertaking a campaign for review of BPL/AAY families to eliminate ghost ration cards; to take strict action against the guilty under the PDS (Control) Order; to involve elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in distribution of foodgrains at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) level and issue of FPS licences to Self Help Groups (SHGs), Gram Panchayats, Cooperatives, etc.; display of all Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists; display of district-wise and Fair Price Shop wise allocation of foodgrains on websites and other prominent places for public scrutiny; door step delivery of foodgrains; timely availability of foodgrains; computerization of TPDS to ensure distribution of foodgrains in a transparent and effective manner. In addition, the Government has also taken steps to introduce electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating details of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.