

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2134
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
PURCHASE OF POOR QUALITY RICE
Nikhil Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked a large number of Food Corporation of India (FCI) officials for allegedly purchasing poor quality rice during the last three years and thereafter, till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the norms fixed for procurement of rice and wheat by FCI;
- (d) whether the officials of FCI in connivance with the traders are procuring inferior quality rice and wheat and supplying the same to States under Public Distribution System (PDS); and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to break such nexus and ensure procurement of only good quality rice and wheat for PDS?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. CBI has registered three cases against FCI officials for purchasing poor quality rice in Punjab during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2004-05.

(b): In Punjab CBI has registered three FIRs against 83 FCI Officials for purchasing poor quality of rice during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2004-05.

In another case two FCI Officials have been booked by CBI in Nagpur, Maharashtra for purchase of poor quality rice in 2005.

(c): For procurement of rice and wheat by FCI norms are fixed by Government of India. Copy of same for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 and Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 are annexed at Annexure-I

(d): No, Sir. Foodgrains are procured for the Central Pool as per the prescribed norms which are well within the PFA limits. However, in case any such incidents of procuring sub- standard foodgrains are detected, action is taken against officials found guilty. Further, stocks released to State Governments for PDS are jointly inspected by officers of FCI and State Governments.

(e): The details of the steps taken to ensure procurement of rice and wheat conforming to the specifications laid down are given at Annexure -II.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.08.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA

UNIFORM SPECIFICATION FOR INDIAN WHEAT OF ALL VARIETIES FOR RABI MARKETING SEASON 2007 -2008.

Wheat shall:

- a) be the dried mature grains of *Triticum vulgare*, *T. compactum*, *T. sphaerococcum*, *T. durum*, *T. aestivum* and *T. dicoccum*.
- b) have natural size, shape, colour and lustre.
- c) be sweet, clean, wholesome and free from obnoxious smell, discolouration, admixture of deleterious substances including toxic weed seeds and all other impurities except to the extent indicated in the schedule below.
- d) be in sound merchantable condition.
- e) not have any admixture of *Argemone mexicana* and *Lathyrus sativus* (khesari) in any form, colouring matter and any obnoxious, deleterious and toxic material.
- f) Conform to PFA Rules. Scheduled showing the maximum permissible limits of different refractions in Fair Average Quality of Wheat.

Foreign Other food Damaged Slightly Shrivelled
Matter % grains% grains% damaged & Broken
grains% grains %

0.75 2.00 2.00 6.00 7.00

NOTE:

1. Moisture in excess of 12% and upto 14% will be discounted at full value. Stocks containing moisture in excess of 14% are to be rejected.
2. Within the overall limit specified for foreign matter, the poisonous weed seeds shall not exceed 0.4% of which Dhatura and Akra (Vicia species) shall not be more than 0.025% and 0.2% by weight respectively.
3. Kernels with glumes will not be treated as unsound grains during physical analysis, the glumes will be removed and treated as organic foreign matter.
4. Within the overall limit specified for damaged grains, ergot affected grains shall not exceed 0.05 %.
5. In case of stocks having living infestation, a cut at the rate of Rupee One per quintal may be charged as fumigation charges.
6. For weevilled grains determined by count, following price cuts, in addition to other cuts, if any, will be imposed.
 - i) from the beginning of the season till end of August, the rate of cut will be @ Re. 1/- per qtl., for every 1% or part thereof.
 - ii) from 1st September till end of October, no cut will be imposed upto 1% while for any excess, the cut will be @ Re. 1/- per qtl., for every 1% or part thereof.
 - iii) from 1st November till end of the season no cut will be imposed upto 2% while for any excess, the cut will be @ Re. 1/- per qtl., for every 1% or part thereof.
 - iv) stocks containing weevilled grains in excess of 3% will be rejected.

Method of Analysis

As given in Bureau of Indian Standard No. IS. 4333 (Part I and II) 1967 and as amended from time to time except for weevilled grains which are to be determined by count method.

DEFINITIONS OF REFRACTIONS:

As contained in BIS Specifications No. 2813-1995.

UNIFORM SPECIFICATION OF ALL VARIETIES OF PADDY (MARKETING SEASON 2006-2007)

Paddy shall be in sound merchantable condition, dry, clean, wholesome of good food value, uniform in colour and size of grains and free from moulds, weevils, obnoxious smell, Argemone mexicana, Lathyrus sativus (Khesari) and admixture of deleterious substances.

Paddy will be classified into Grade `A` and Common groups.

Schedule of Specification
S.No Refractions Maximum Limits (%)

1. Foreign matter a) Inorganic 1.0
b) Organic 1.0
2. Damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains 3.0
3. Immature, Shrunken and shriveled grains 3.0
4. Admixture of lower class 7.0
5. Moisture 17.0

NOTE

1. The definitions of the above refractions and method of analysis are to be followed as per BIS method of analysis of food grains IS: 4333 (Part-I) 1967, IS: 4333 (Part-II), 1967 and Terminology for food grains IS: 2813 -1995, as amended from time to time.
2. The method of sampling is to be followed as per BIS method for sampling of Cereals and Pulses No. IS: 14818-2000.
3. Within the overall limit of 1.0% for organic foreign matter, poisonous seeds shall not exceed 0.5% of which Dhatura and Akra seeds (Vicia species) not to exceed 0.025% and 0.2% respectively.

UNIFORM SPECIFICATION FOR GRADE `A` & COMMON RICE
(MARKETING SEASON 2006-2007)

Rice shall be in sound merchantable condition, sweet, dry, clean, wholesome, of good food value, uniform in colour and size of grains and free from moulds, weevils, obnoxious smell, admixture of unwholesome poisonous substances, *Argemone mexicana* and *Lathyrus sativus* (Khesari) in any form, or colouring agents and all impurities except to the extent in the schedule below. It shall also conform to PFA Standards:

SCHEDULE OF SPECIFICATION

Sl.No.	Refractions	Maximum Limit (%)
1.	Brokens@ Grade `A` Common	
	Raw 25.0	25.0
	Parboiled 16.0	16.0
2.	Foreign Matter@@	Raw/Parboiled 0.5 0.5
3.	Damaged/Slightly Damaged Grains: Raw	2.0# 2.0#
	Parboiled	4.0 4.0
4.	Discoloured Grains Raw	3.0 3.0
	Parboiled	5.0 5.0
5.	Chalky Grains Raw	5.0 5.0
6.	Red Grains Raw/Parboiled	3.0 3.0
7.	Admixture of lower class Raw/Parboiled	7.0
8.	Dehusked Grains Raw/Parboiled	12.0 12.0
9.	Moisture content@@@	Raw/Parboiled 14.0 14.0

@ Including 1% small brokens.

@@ Not more than 0.25% by weight shall be mineral matter and not more than 0.10% by weight shall be impurities of animal origin.

Rice having incidence of pinpoint damage to the extent of 1% over and above 2% Damaged /Slightly Damaged grains may be accepted without any value cut.

@@@ Rice (both raw and Parboiled) can be procured with moisture content upto a maximum limit of 15% with value cut. There will be no value cut up to 14%. Between 14% to 15% moisture, value cut will be applicable at the rate of full value.

NOTES APPLICABLE TO THE SPECIFICATION OF GRADE `A` AND COMMON VARIETIES OF RICE.

1. The definition of the above refractions and method of analysis are to be followed as given in Bureau of Indian Standard ` Method of analysis for Foodgrains` No`s IS: 4333 (Part-I): 1996 and IS: 4333 (Part- II): 2002 ` Terminology for Foodgrains` IS: 2813-1995 as amended from time to time. Dehusked grains are rice kernels whole or broken which have more than 1/4th of the surface area of the kernel covered with the bran and determined as follows:

ANALYSIS PROCEDURE: Take 5 grams of rice (sound head rice and brokens) in a petri dish (80X70 mm). Dip the grains in about 20 ml. of Methylene Blue solution (0.05% by weight in distilled water) and allow standing for about one minute. Decant the Methylene Blue solution. Give a swirl wash with about 20 ml. of dilute hydrochloric acid (5% solution by volume in distilled water). Give a swirl wash with water and pour about 20 ml. of Metanil Yellow solution (0.05% by weight in distilled water) on the blue stained grains and allow standing for about one minute. Decant the effluent and wash with fresh water twice. Keep the stained grains under fresh water and count the Dehusked grains. Count the total number of grains in 5 grams of sample under analysis. Three brokens are counted as one whole grain.

CALCULATIONS:

$$\text{Percentage of Dehusked grains} = \frac{N}{W} \times 100$$

Where N = Number of Dehusked grains in 5 grams of sample

W= Total grains in 5 grams of sample.

2. The Method of sampling is to be followed as given in Bureau of Indian Standard `Method of sampling of Cereals and Pulses` No IS: 14818-2000 as amended from time to time.

3. Broken less than 1/8th of the size of full kernels will be treated as organic foreign matter. For determination of the size of the broken average length of the principal class of rice should be taken into account.

4. Inorganic foreign matter shall not exceed 0.25% in any lot, if it is more, the stocks should be cleaned and brought within the limit. Kernels or pieces of kernels having mud sticking on surface of rice, shall be treated as Inorganic foreign matter.

5. In case of rice prepared by pressure parboiling technique, it will be ensured that correct process of parboiling is adopted i.e. pressure applied, the time for which pressure is applied, proper gelatinisation, aeration and drying before milling are adequate so that the colour and cooking time of parboiled rice are good and free from encrustation of the grains.

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.08.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA

Steps taken to ensure procurement of good quality rice and wheat:

(i) The foodgrains for Central Pool are procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State procuring agencies conforming to the Uniform Specifications laid down by the Government of India.

(ii) The Quality Control officers of FCI and State Governments regularly monitor the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement.

(iii) Samples of procured foodgrains are drawn from the procurement centers and are got analyzed in the laboratories to know their physical quality parameters including moisture content. Discrepancies, if any, observed in the quality of procured foodgrains are immediately brought to the notice of concerned authorities of the FCI and State Government for taking immediate remedial measures.

(iv) The quality of rice is also monitored at the time of procurement/receipt in the godowns of FCI and State Governments.

(v) Samples of rice are drawn from each lot and are analysed before acceptance in Depots of FCI. Only those lots, which conform to the laid down quality norms, are accepted by the Quality Control staff of the FCI/State Governments.

(vi) In case the quality of some lots is not found conforming to Uniform Specifications, the concerned rice mills are instructed to replace the rice stock.

(vii) In case of rice, 100% inspection is carried out at the time of procurement in the depots.

(viii) In addition to this, checks are also being carried out by senior officers of FCI as per laid down norms. 25%, 10% and 2% rice consignments accepted by each Technical Assistant on each depot on day-to-day basis are again checked by Manager, Quality Control, Assistant General Manager, Quality Control and Area Manager respectively. Besides, 10, 4 and 2 depots in each month are also to be checked by Deputy General Manager, Quality Control, General Manager (Region) and General Manager, Quality Control of FCI respectively.