

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
POOR QUALITY WHEAT UNDER PDS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chandrappan Shri C.K.

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received from various States regarding supply of poor quality of imported wheat for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS)/Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other schemes during 2007-2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number and nature of complaints received so far, State-wise;
- (c) whether the stocks of foodgrains kept in the godowns in various States were also found to be of substandard quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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. 70 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.03.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A complaint was received from the State Government of Maharashtra in April, 2007 about the quality of imported wheat being distributed through the TPDS. It was informed by the State Government that samples of imported wheat taken by the State Government in March, 2007 from Ration Shops in Mumbai were found unfit for human consumption on analysis in State Government Laboratories in Vashi and Pune. However, joint samples drawn by officers of FCI and State Governments from Food Storage Depots at Mumbai were found fit for human consumption on analysis in State Government Health Laboratory, Pune.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. The imported wheat samples drawn from FCI's depots in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra Regions during October, 2007 were found conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) Standards.

(e): The following remedial measures have been taken by the Government to supply of good quality foodgrains including imported wheat under the TPDS.

(i) The quality of imported wheat is thoroughly checked at the entry port to ensure conformity with PFA Standards and Plant Quarantine Regulations.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from FCI godowns. FCI has been instructed to ensure that samples are drawn jointly with State Government officials from FCI godowns before issue of foodgrains. Sealed samples are required to be displayed at the Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to ensure that quality of foodgrains is not diluted during storage and transportation or at Fair Price Shop level.