

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
SUB STANDARD WHEAT UNDER PDS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding the supply and distribution of sub-standard imported wheat under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number and nature of complaints received, State-wise;
- (c) whether the foodgrain stocks in some States have been found to include substandard quality of wheat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam.

A complaint was received from State Government of Maharashtra in April, 2007 about quality of imported wheat being distributed through PDS. It was informed by the State Government that some of the imported wheat samples drawn by them from Fair Price Shops in Mumbai and Pune were found unfit for human consumption. Samples of imported wheat jointly drawn by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government officials from FCI's Food Storage Depots, GM., Borivili and Bhiwandi and analysed in Government of Maharashtra, State Public Health Laboratory, Pune were found conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards and fit for human consumption.

A complaint was received in December, 2006 from Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament about supply of poor quality of imported wheat in PDS in Madhya Pradesh. The quality of imported wheat drawn from Fair Price Shop at Indore was got tested in the State Food Laboratory, Indore and was found to be conforming to PFA standards.

A complaint was received in December, 2006 from a consumers organisation, District Ajmer, Rajasthan about quality of imported red wheat. According to FCI, the imported wheat was issued conforming to Government of India specifications for distribution in PDS after representatives of State Government were satisfied with the quality.

(c)&(d): No, Madam. The imported wheat samples drawn from FCI 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 steps have been taken by the Government in this regard:

(i) The quality of imported wheat is thoroughly checked at the entry port to ensure conformity with PFA standards by officials authorized by Ministry of Health and Plant Quarantine Order by officials authorized by Ministry of Agriculture.

(ii) During storage, scientific code of practices are adopted by FCI so that the foodgrains are not damaged.

(iii) Before lifting the stocks from FCI godowns for PDS, joint inspection of stock is carried out by the representatives of State Government and FCI and only stocks which are approved by the joint inspection teams are issued for PDS.