

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:56  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011  
RELAXATION IN PROCUREMENTNORMS  
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the farmers in some States including Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are facing problems due to non-procurement of their rice/paddy by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies on account of discolouration and failing to meet the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the States have requested the Union Government for relaxation in FAQ norms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure procurement of the entire quantity of paddy offered by farmers to FCI and other agencies?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(e): Requests have been received from some State Governments including Andhra Pradesh and Orissa for relaxation in uniform specification norms for procurement of paddy/rice due to unseasonal rains affecting the quality of paddy during Kharif marketing season (KMS) 2010-11. On receipt of the request of the State Governments for relaxation in quality norms, Joint Teams of officers of Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, Food Corporation of India and concerned State Government collected the paddy samples from affected areas and based on the analysis results of the field samples, relaxations in uniform specifications have been allowed by the Government to mitigate the hardships of farmers and to avoid distress sale. Details of relaxations in uniform specifications of paddy/rice allowed for KMS 2010-11 to various States are annexed.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.56 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22-2-2011 IN LOK SABHA

Details of relaxations in uniform specifications of paddy/rice allowed to the States for KMS 2010-11

1. Andhra Pradesh

Paddy

Relaxation in damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains allowed up to a maximum limit of 10.0% against the existing limit of 4.0%, subject to the condition that damaged, sprouted and weevilled grains together do not exceed 5%.

Rice

(i) The limit of damaged/slightly damaged grains including pin point damaged grains in raw rice is relaxed upto 4% against the existing limit of 3% in raw rice for custom milled and levy rice.

(ii) The limit of broken grains in raw rice is relaxed upto 30% against the existing limit of 25% in raw rice for custom milled and levy rice.

(iii)The limit of discoloured grains in raw rice is relaxed up to 7% against the existing limit of 3% for custom milled and levy rice.

The relaxation in paddy & rice are applicable in eight affected districts namely East Godawari, Vishakapatnam, Guntoor, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, West Godawari, Krishna and Prakasham. Besides, relaxation in paddy will also be applicable in Nalgonda and Khamam districts and in case of rice, one lakh ton rice in Nalgonda and 20,000 ton rice in Khamam district including CMR can be procured under relaxed specifications.

2. Chhattisgarh

Paddy -

Relaxation in damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains allowed up to a maximum limit of 7% against the existing limit of 4.0%, subject to the condition that damaged, sprouted and weevilled grains together do not exceed 5%.

The relaxation is applicable in seven affected districts of Chhatisgarh namely Raipur, Dhamtari, Kanker, Jagdalpur, Durg, Kabirdham and Bilaspur.

3. Orissa

Paddy -

(i) Relaxation in damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains allowed up to a maximum limit of 10% against the existing limit of 4%, subject to the condition that damaged, sprouted and weevilled grains together do not exceed 5%.

(ii) Relaxation in immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains allowed upto a maximum limit of 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications.

The relaxation in paddy is applicable in eleven affected districts of Orissa namely Sambalpur, Baragarh, Subarnapur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput and Nabarangpur.

4. Punjab

Paddy -

Relaxation in damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains allowed up to a maximum limit of 10% against the existing limit of 4%, subject to the condition that damaged, sprouted and weevilled grains together do not exceed 4% to the entire State of Punjab.

Rice -

The limit of damaged/slightly damaged grains including pin point damaged grains is relaxed upto 4% against the existing limit of 3%, subject to the condition that damaged/slightly damaged grains should not exceed 3% in custom milled raw rice for the entire State of Punjab.

5. Tamil Nadu

Paddy -

(i) Relaxation in damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains allowed up to a maximum limit of 5% against the existing limit of 4%.

(ii) The maximum limit in respect of moisture content in paddy grains allowed up 20% against the existing limit of 17% under uniform specifications.

These relaxations are applicable in the districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinum in Tamil Nadu.