

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1114

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011

SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS

De Dr. Ratna;Viswanathan Shri P.;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received complaints from various State Governments regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains to them under the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, yearwise and State-wise;
- (c) the remedial measures taken in this regard alongwith the action taken by the Union Government on these complaints; and
- (d) the mechanism in place to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains to the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) (b) & (c) : Three complaints (2 complaints in 2007-08 and 1 in 2010-11) about supply of poor quality of foodgrains issued under Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes were received from State Governments during last three years. Details of these complaints and action taken by Government are annexed.

(d): FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations have been directed to take the following steps to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes:

(i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to PFA Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

(ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to representatives of the State Governments/UT Administrations to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting their stocks from FCI godowns.

(iii) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.

(iv) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed jointly by representatives of FCI and State Food & Civil Supplies Department from the stock of foodgrains to be issued.

(v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Governments/UT Administrations. In addition surprise checks are also carried out by officers of Quality Control Cells of the Ministry.

(vi) State Governments/ UT Administrations are to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain their required quality specifications.

(vii) The State Governments, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, have to ensure that the foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired quality standards under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.