

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) whether the foodgrains distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is subjected to quality control checks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints regarding the poor quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS have been received by the Government during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c) &(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.344 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The details are as follows:

(i) During procurement and at regular intervals during storage, the foodgrains are subjected to quality control checks as per laid down procedure and specifications.

(ii) At the time of issue of stocks to the State Governments, adequate opportunities are provided to the State Governments to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns. The samples of foodgrains issued for PDS are jointly drawn and sealed by the officials of the State Governments and the FCI for display at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(iii) The officials of the Central and State Governments do surprise checks to the FPSs to check the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. The details are given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.344 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.7.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA

Complaints received during last three years and current year:

(i) 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 sample drawn from Fair Price Shop at Indore was got tested in the Municipal Corporation's Food Laboratory, Indore and was found to be conforming to PFA standards.

(ii) A complaint was received in December, 2006 from a consumers organisation, District Ajmer, Rajasthan about quality of imported red wheat. The imported red wheat issued after verification by State Government officials was conforming to Government of India's specifications.

(iii) Two Complaints were received from State Government of Maharashtra in October, 2006 and 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. Two complaints were also made by Dr. Kirit Somaiya, ex-MP about distribution of bad quality of red wheat issued in Maharashtra. The samples of imported wheat were 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. These samples were found conforming

to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards and fit for human consumption.

(iv) In July, 2007, Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. informed Department of Food & Public Distribution that Fair Price Shop Dealers and some of the people's representatives had complained about the quality of wheat released to them. On investigation, it was found that wheat stocks issued were found conforming to laid down specifications. The complaint was related to the preference for Indian wheat over imported wheat.

(v) Two complaints were received in November, 2008 and January, 2009 from Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble M.P. about poor quality of foodgrains being issued by FCI in Gujarat without specifying any location. Instructions were issued to Food Corporation of India to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains to BPL families in Gujarat State.

(vi) A copy of complaint made to Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, West Bengal was received in May, 2009 from All Bengal Fair Price Shop Dealers' Welfare Association that poor quality stocks of wheat were issued in PDS. FCI was directed to ensure the supply of good quality wheat under PDS in West Bengal.

(vii) A complaint was received in June, 2009 from Shri Jai Kishan, Hon'ble M.L.A., Delhi about supply of poor quality wheat from FCI Depot at Delhi. The matter was investigated. Based on the findings of the investigation, FCI was asked to take immediate remedial measures and take appropriate action against officials responsible.