

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3391

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been received from some States during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether some States did not lift their quota under PDS owing to poor quality of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of foodgrains allocated, lifted and damaged during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and category-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken to prevent damage and ensure supply of good quality food grains under PDS?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): One complaint about supply of poor quality of foodgrains issued under Public Distribution System was received from State Government of Bihar during the last three years (2008-09 to 2010-11). A complaint from Principal Secretary, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar in May 2010 was received by Chairman & Managing Director, Food Corporation of India (FCI) regarding poor quality of wheat supplied under TPDS. A reference was also received from Minister of Food & Consumer Protection, Government of Bihar for supply of good quality foodgrains from FCI godowns under TPDS in Bihar in January 2011. Complaints were investigated by FCI and upon investigation, it was found that fair average quality (FAQ) stocks were available in the depots and the same was issued to PDS. FCI had already sent the report to the State Government and it has also been requested to ensure that the set procedure for taking delivery of foodgrains from FCI godowns for distribution under TPDS (joint inspection of stocks by representatives of State Government and FCI prior to delivery of stocks from FCI) is followed.

(c) & (d): No report from any State about not lifting their quota under PDS owing to poor quality of foodgrains has been received. Details of State-wise allocation and off-take of foodgrains under TPDS during last three years and current year are at Annexure-I. Statement showing region-wise quantity of foodgrains accrued as non-issuable (damaged) during the last three years and current year with FCI is at Annexure-II.

(e): In order to prevent damages of foodgrains during storage, State Governments and FCI have been instructed from time to time to take required measures for proper and safe storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in CAP storage. Recently such instructions to all State Governments/UT Administrations and FCI have been reiterated on 06.07.2011. These measures include continuous monitoring of quality of foodgrains during procurement, storage and distribution, to follow code of practices for safe storage in covered and CAP storage, to take all precautionary measures like prophylactic and curative treatment for insect pest control, regular periodic inspection of stocks to assess the quality.

In order to ensure that only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation are issued for public distribution system (PDS), following steps have been taken by the Government:

- (i) Ample opportunities are being provided to officials of State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from FCI godowns.
- (ii) State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to depute an officer not below the rank of Inspector for inspection of the foodgrains before their lifting from FCI godowns.
- (iii) The samples from the stocks to be issued to States/UTs are to be drawn jointly and sealed by the officers of State Governments

and FCI for displaying them at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) In case the State agencies are taking delivery from FCI and thereafter delivering the same to the FPS dealers, they have to follow the same procedure as being followed by FCI for issuing the jointly sealed samples drawn for display at FPS.

(v) Type samples are to be displayed by FPS dealers in their shops, so that the consumers may check the quality of foodgrains supplied to them.

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