

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:886

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

IRREGULARITIES IN RATION SUPPLY

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of alleged irregularities in supply of ration to the army personnel as reported recently and food items being served to them were found to be expired;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure supply of high quality ration to the personnel and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the ration supply system and link supply depots and supply centres with computerized system in order to check malpractices; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 886 FOR ANSWER ON 19.3.2012

Government always takes cognizance of alleged irregularities in supply of ration to the army personnel whenever it comes to the notice and takes corrective measures. Food items are supplied on the basis of approved specification and mechanisms are in place for testing quality of food items before they are supplied.

Improvement of rations is an ongoing procedure. Based upon the feedbacks received from troops, a number of measures have been recently introduced for providing better variety and quality of rations to the troops. These are enumerated below:-

- (i) Increase in Scale of Eggs and Fruits Fresh for JCOs/OR.
- (ii) Increase in Scale of Meat/chicken (broiler) Dressed for JCOs/OR
- (iii) Authorization of Frozen Meat/Chicken (Broiler) Dressed as substitute to meat/chicken (broiler) dressed.
- (iv) Authorization of Special Ration to Troops Deployed above 12000 feet.
- (v) Sanction of certain items of Special Rations for troops deployed in Counter Insurgency Operations.
- (vi) Authorization of Goat/Sheep meat as per preference of troops.
- (vii) Procurement of soft drinks in lieu of aerated water.
- (viii) Authorization of special scale of rations to students attending Ghatak Courses.
- (ix) Procurement of branded wheat atta whole meal instead of grinding wheat into atta.
- (x) Procurement of branded refined salt.
- (xi) Introduction of ready to eat vegetables in retort pouches with longer shelf life instead of vegetable dehydrated.
- (xii) Upgradation of specifications of Rice.
- (xiii) Upgradation of specifications of pulses and tea.

An advanced & modern computerized system is currently under development. The Pilot projects are planned for testing at Delhi and Chandigarh. The computerized system is aimed to assist in the estimation and monitoring of stocks of food supplies and management of the shelf life of these supplies.