

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:828

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

GRAIN ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Grain Analysis Laboratory in New Delhi and quality monitoring cells in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of the said laboratory and monitoring cells;
- (d) the time by which such laboratory and monitoring cells are likely to become operational in the country; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to monitor/regulate the functioning of the said laboratory and monitoring cells in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) under the Department of Food & Public Distribution is already working in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. CGAL is analyzing samples of foodgrains under central pool received from various sources to assess its quality. Similarly, there are eight Quality Control Cells (QCCs) under the Department of Food & Public Distribution to monitor the quality of central pool foodgrains throughout the country. These Quality Control Cells are situated at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Lucknow, New Delhi and Pune. Officers of the Quality Control Cells inspect the procurement centres, storage depots, rice mills, rail/truck heads, fair price shops etc. to monitor the quality of foodgrains during procurement, storage and distribution and to ensure that prescribed code of practices are followed by procuring and storage agencies.

With a view to strengthen the quality control mechanism and to monitor the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement, storage and distribution, a new plan scheme "Strengthening of Quality Control Mechanism" is included in the 12th Five Year Plan. The proposed plan scheme has 3 components, namely (i) Opening of seven new Quality Control Cells (QCCs) at Guwahati, Patna, Chandigarh, Jammu, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Chennai; (ii) Upgradation of laboratories of Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institutes, Hapur and its field stations Hyderabad and Ludhiana and (iii) Capacity building for skill upgradation of State Procuring and Storage Agencies.