

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2654
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS
Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

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

- (a) whether any investigation/inquiry has been conducted in the alleged cases of supply of poor quality foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra and Goa;
- (c) whether any discussions were held with the State Governments of Maharashtra and Goa in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Any complaint received about supply of poor quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System(PDS) is investigated and remedial steps are taken. Details of complaints received and action taken on the complaints during 2011-12 and current year are at Annexure-I.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): In order to ensure that only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation are issued for public distribution system (PDS) as well as all other food based welfare schemes, following procedures have been laid down and instructions issued from time to time to State Governments/FCI :-

(i) Only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation and conforming to the Standards of Food Safety and Standards Act/Rules (formerly PFA) are to be issued under TPDS.

(ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.

(iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Food & Civil Supplies Department for display in Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers. FPS dealers are to maintain a complaint register to enable the consumers to lodge their complaints, in case the quality of the foodgrains issued is not proper.

(iv) 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.

(v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government and surprise checks are carried out by the officers of Quality Control Cell of the Ministry.

(vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.

(vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act.