

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
QUALITY TEST FOR FOODGRAINS
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India tests the quality of foodgrains before their procurement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the mechanism available therefor;
- (c) whether substandard foodgrains have been procured by the Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years despite the existence of the quality testing mechanism;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of officers held responsible in this regard and the action taken against them?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO 404 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.4.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) checks the quality of foodgrains prior to procurement. Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Season, uniform specifications are formulated by the Government for procurement of foodgrains under Central Pool. Wheat, paddy and rice are procured as per quality specifications by technically qualified staff deputed by FCI for procurement. Detailed guidelines and instructions regarding sampling and analysis procedure and inspection to be followed in acceptance of foodgrain stocks are issued by FCI for strict compliance by the field functionaries. Quality control measures to be taken during procurement operations are also issued. Samples are drawn before the acceptance and all the quality parameters are analysed by the Technical Assistant. As per the procedure, stocks are inspected/checked by the concerned field functionaries of FCI as under:

- (i) 100% stocks are inspected by Technical Assistant before acceptance conforming to uniform specifications.
- (ii) 25% stocks are checked by Manager (Quality Control).
- (iii) 10% stocks are checked during inspection by Assistant General Manager (Quality Control).
- (vi) 2% stocks are checked during inspection by Area Manager, FCI.

Special headquarter squads from Quality Control and Vigilance Division of FCI are also deployed to inspect the procurement operations. Besides, Quality Control Cells under the Department of Food & Public Distribution also inspect the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement.

(c), (d) & (e) Some quantities of procured foodgrains have been detected beyond prescribed specifications in various super checks and inspections during the last three years. Region -wise details of such poor quality foodgrains are at Annexure. The number of persons against whom disciplinary action have been taken during the last three years for procurement of poor quality foodgrains is as under;

Year	No. of officials against whom disciplinary action has been taken for procurement of beyond rejection limit
------	--

2010-11 1041

2011-12 547

2012-13 (as on 282
28.2.2013)