

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3270
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints from the States with regard to storage and supply of damaged and poor quality foodgrains and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any system in place to test the quality of foodgrains during storage and before being supplied to the States under the Public Distribution System;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the system being unsuccessful in checking such cases; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to ensure proper storage and testing of foodgrains?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a): No complaint has been received from the States about storage of foodgrains. Complaints received about supply of damaged and poor quality foodgrains during the year 2014-15 is at annex.

(b): The quality of foodgrains in storage is monitored by Food Corporation of India (FCI) at regular intervals by a system of check and super checks to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage. These are as follows:-

- (i) Fortnightly inspection of stock on 100% basis by Technical Assistants at storage depot level.
- (ii) Monthly inspection by Manager (Quality Control) at storage depot level.
- (iii) Quarterly inspection by Assistant General Manager(Quality Control) at District level.
- (iv) Super checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Headquarter squads.

Similarly, at the time of issue of foodgrains to States/UTs, there is a well defined procedure of joint inspection/sampling of the stocks by State Government authority and FCI to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes.

Complaints received about quality of foodgrains are also investigated by the officers of Quality Control Cells (QCCs) of the Department and tests are conducted on quality of foodgrains at the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi in case of disputes.

(c) & (d): Government has taken various steps to minimize damage to foodgrains, including augmentation of covered storage capacity, training of man power in scientific storage, regular monitoring and testing of foodgrains etc. Due to which the damage in central pools stocks has been brought down from 1.066% in 2000-2001 to 0.044% in 2014-15 (upto 31.1.2015). The testing facilities at CGAL New Delhi and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur have been upgraded.