

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Procurement of Poor Quality Foodgrains
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh;Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the procurement of wheat by the Government agencies during the Rabi Marketing Season in the current year has surpassed previous year"s procurement and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government had relaxed the quality norms for procurement of wheat to provide relief to the farmers affected by unseasonal rains and hailstorm, if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of such foodgrains procured and the number of farmers benefitted therefrom, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding utilisation of the wheat, which did not conform to quality norms, if so, the details thereof along with the quality of such wheat as assessed by the testing laboratories; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices for the foodgrains produced by the farmers and its procurement from farmers by Government agencies and to ensure procurement of entire foodgrains from farmers?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *8 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2015 IN THE LOK SABHA

- (a): Yes, Madam. A quantity of 280.87 lakh MT (as reported on 13.07.2015) of wheat has been procured for Central Pool during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2015-16, whereas, during RMS 2014-15, procurement of wheat was only 280.23 lakh MT. The procurement of Wheat this year has marginally surpassed the previous year's procurement.
- (b): Yes, Madam. In order to help the farmers avoid distress sales due to deterioration of quality of wheat on account of unseasonal rains, Government relaxed the procurement norms of quality for procurement of wheat under central pool in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and UT Chandigarh. State-wise details of relaxation allowed in specification of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2015-16 are at Annex-I. The State -wise details of quantum of such wheat procured under relaxed specification (URS) are at Annex-II. Data on number of farmers covered under the price support operations is not maintained by the Ministry.
- (c): Yes, Madam. Government has issued direction that URS wheat stock is to be issued on over-riding priority irrespective of FIFO (First In First Out) Principle for distribution under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes. The surplus URS wheat stock over and above stocking norms is also to be sold in the open market on over-riding priority through e-auctions. For distribution of foodgrains to States / UTs, there is a well defined procedure of joint inspection/sampling of the stock by the State Government authority and Food Corporation of India (FCI) ensures that only good quality foodgrains conforming to Food Safety Standards are issued under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes.
- (d) : The steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices for the foodgrains produced by the farmers and its procurement from farmers by Government agencies and to ensure procurement of entire foodgrains from farmers are at Annex-III.
