

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3749
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
RELAXATION IN PROCUREMENT NORMS
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

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

- (a) whether the Government follows a uniform policy for procurement of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government allows relaxation in quality specification for procurement of foodgrains and if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of relaxation allowed during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether separate criterion is followed in determining the extent of relaxation allowed for different States; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a): Yes, Madam. Government follows a uniform policy for procurement of foodgrains under central pool. Central Government extends price support to paddy, wheat and coarse grains through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Before commencement of Rabi and Kharif Procurement Season, uniform specifications of Rabi and Kharif foodgrains respectively are formulated by the Government. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State agencies at MSP or In open market as is advantageous to them.

Sometimes, due to unseasonal rains, adverse climatic conditions or other factors, if the quality of foodgrains brought by the farmers do not conform to the quality norms under uniform specifications, then on the request of the State Government concerned, relaxations in quality norms under uniform specifications are considered based on analysis results of foodgrain samples collected jointly by the team of officers of FCI, State Government and this Department from affected areas. The relaxations allowed are well within the prescribed norms of Food Safety and Standards Act. Details of relaxations allowed for procurement of central pool foodgrains during last three years and current year are at Annex.

(c): No, Madam,

(d): Does not arise.