

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:287
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
PROCUREMENT OF RICE
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 paddy/ rice 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 paddy/rice and if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of relaxation allowed during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether relaxation in quality norms are not allowed uniformly for all the States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. Government follows a uniform policy for procurement of foodgrains (including paddy/rice) under central pool. 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.
- (b): 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 from the affected areas of foodgrain samples collected by a joint team of officers from FCI, State Government and Department of Food and Public Distribution. 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) & (d): the relaxation in quality norms are allowed in the affected areas based on the request on the State Government concerned and after applying uniform procedure of sampling and analysis for the affected States.