

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 561
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018

DISTRIBUTION OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

561. SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

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

- (a) whether Government has directed to distribute quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of times foodgrains being distributed under PDS have been checked by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in last five years; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that regular complaints are being received regarding rotten and sub-standard foodgrain provided under PDS, if so, the action taken thereon?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a) Yes Sir, Government has issued following instructions to State Governments / Union Territories (UT) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS).
 - (i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
 - (ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
 - (iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations.
 - (iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
 - (v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
 - (vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
 - (vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

(b) Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all the food products are undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check that they comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases where food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter-IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The implementation and enforcement of norms under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Government.

No separate enforcement data regarding samples taken from foodgrains distributed under PDS by Food Safety Authorities of the States/UTs is maintained centrally by FSSAI. However, based on information made available by the States/UTs, details of all food samples analyzed and found non-conforming to the norms and action taken during last five years is at Annexure-I.

(c) No, Sir. PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for intra-state allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards and supervision and monitoring of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

Three complaints about supply of poor quality foodgrains distributed under PDS were received during 2017-18, State-wise details of which alongwith the action taken is at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 561 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018 IN RAJYA SABHA.

STATE-WISE DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS ALONGWITH THE ACTION TAKEN DURING 2017-18

States	Complaints	Action Taken by the Government
West Bengal	Complaint was received from Sh. Sunil Khan, Srikrishnapur, Bishnupur village, West Bengal regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains under PDS in West Bengal.	The complaint was forwarded to Principal Secretary, Food Department, Government of West Bengal for investigation.
Telangana	Complaint made by Sh. P Mastan Rao R/o of Hyderabad regarding poor quality of wheat issued through PDS in Hyderabad.	The complaint was got investigated by Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation and was not found to be true.
Maharashtra	Public Grievance received from Sh. Paulson Dsouza, R/o Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra regarding supply of bad quality of wheat and rice in ration shops in Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra.	Information has been provided to the Applicant.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION
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**STATEMENT REGARDING NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF FOOD PRODUCTS
EXAMINED, FOUND NON-CONFIRMING AND PROSECUTION LAUNCHED
DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples found non-conforming	No. of Civil/ Criminal cases Launched	Convictions	No. of cases in which Penalties imposed / Amount raised
2013-14	72200	13571	10235	913	2950/Rs. 7,34,45,974
2014-15	74010	14599	10536	1402	2795/Rs.10,93,87,214
2015-16	72499	16133	9979	540	3669/Rs.21,65,98,989
2016-17	78340	18325	13080	1605	4757/Rs.17,01,93,266
2017-18	99353	24262	15121	5198	7627/Rs. 26,35,41,067
