

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3474
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

QUALITY STANDARDS AT FCI

3474. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government concurs with the view that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) should fix quality standards and provide testing facilities to resolve any dispute by purchaser, floor price must be kept about 93-95% of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and unsold stocks must be essentially stored by FCI;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) to (c): Food Corporation of India (FCI) has well established quality assurance system with respect to the stocks issued from its depots to ensure that only good quality of foodgrains are supplied to the State Governments/their agencies, as per the allocation formulated by the Government of India from time to time. After the satisfaction about quantity as well as quality a certificate to this effect is also recorded after joint sampling.

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Further, Government has also issued following instructions to State Government/UTs and FCI to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS:

- Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.
- Ample opportunities are provided to the State Government/UT Administration to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from FCI godowns. State/UTs may ensure that officers not below the rank of Inspector are deputed for inspection of the foodgrains before their lifting from FCI godowns.
- Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Government/UT Administration.
- An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
