

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS

**1206. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:**

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 has carried out any survey to ascertain the quality of foodgrains distributed by shops under Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the steps taken to ensure that quality does not deteriorate during the lockdown period;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the number of PDS shop owners who have been caught distributing adulterated/low quality foodgrains since last year, State-wise;**
- (f) the action taken against such shop owners; and**
- (g) the steps being taken to ensure that the quality of foodgrains is not compromised, especially when free ration is provided to the poor?**

**A N S W E R
THE MINISTER OF STATE CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): To monitor the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and to evaluate its impact among targeted beneficiaries, Government of India has engaged 13 reputed institutes as Monitoring Institutions (MIs) for concurrent evaluation of NFSA in States/UTs across the country. The reports have been shared with the concerned States/UTs for further necessary action.

(c) to (g): To ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption, which includes quality and safety parameters of various food products, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the standards of food products under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. All food business operators including Food Corporation of India (FCI), Food & Supply Departments and Fair Price Shops are required to adhere to the specified standards.

Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products are being carried out by the machinery of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, penal action is initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators as per provisions of FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made there under. Further, in order to ensure the availability for sale and supply of safe and wholesome food, FSSAI advises Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs from time to time to keep a strict vigil by regularly drawing food samples and to take appropriate action against the offenders under the provisions of FSS Act, 2006. State /UTs-wise details of all food samples analysed, found non-conforming and action taken during 2020-21 is enclosed at Annexure. However, no separate data is maintained by the FSSAI with respect to enforcement activities carried out by the States/UTs in respect of food grains distributed under PDS

Moreover, Government has also issued following instructions to State Government/UTs and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS:

(i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

(ii) Ample opportunities are to be 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.