

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2730  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024

**QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS DISTRIBUTED UNDER PDS**

†2730 SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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 any detailed report regarding the quality of foodgrains being distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken concrete steps to ensure the quality of foodgrains being distributed under the PDS and the foodgrains being utilized for the purpose of mid-daymeal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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(a) & (b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) 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 (FCI). The operational responsibilities for intra-state allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards, supervision and monitoring of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products including foodgrains are being carried out by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the provisions laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and the Rules and Regulations made there under.

(c) to (e): Yes. The Government has issued following instructions to State Governments/UTs and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS and other welfare schemes (OWS):

- a) Only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.
- b) The State Government/UT Administration has to inspect the stocks prior to the lifting of the same from the FCI godowns.
- c) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected from foodgrains stocks to be issued under TPDS jointly by the FCI and the State Government/UT Administration in sealed packets.
- d) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from the State Government to take delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- e) It is 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.
- f) 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 standards under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 as amended from time to time.

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