

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1538
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

RICE PROCUREMENT REJECTION

1538. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) whether any incidents have come to the notice of the Government where rice from other States was being smuggled into Punjab and sold to procurement agencies in view of rejection of rice quality and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which the Government plans to address the rejection of Punjab's rice despite it being procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to investigate and rectify the issues related to paddy procurement, milling standards and quality assurance in Punjab;
- (d) whether it is part of a sabotage to reject the quality of Punjab's rice and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the manner in which the Government plans to support farmers and millers in Punjab who are affected by these quality issues and subsequent rejections of their produce;
- (f) whether there is a long-term strategy in place to improve the overall agricultural practices in Punjab particularly regarding rice production to prevent future occurrences of substandard quality affecting State procurement; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): No incidents have been reported regarding rice being smuggled into Punjab from other states.

(b): No issue regarding undue rejection of rice on ground of quality has been reported.

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(c) to (g): In Punjab, paddy is mainly procured by State Government Agencies and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) is delivered to Food Corporation of India (FCI). The paddy is procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) as per uniform specifications laid down by Government of India to ensure the remunerative price to farmers for their produce. However, in case of any natural calamities, relaxations in the uniform specifications of affected food grains are also provided for smooth procurement so as to prevent distress sale/rejection of food grains.

There is robust system of procurement and acceptance of milled rice by FCI with multi layered quality check system. In case lots are found Beyond Rejection Limit or not meeting the prescribed uniform specifications, the same shall be replaced by Fair Average Quality (FAQ) stock by the concerned Millers.

Further, during KMS 2024-25, around 172 LMT of paddy has been procured from farmers in Punjab. Out of this, 169 LMT has already been lifted from the Mandis of Punjab and stored at the mill points for further milling of the stocks of paddy. FCI has already started acceptance of Rice from the millers as per Govt. of India (GOI) specifications and 94,000 MT has already been accepted by FCI.

All out efforts are made at every level to ensure the quality of stocks. The government is committed to procure all quantity of paddy offered for sale in Punjab as per the quality specification laid down by the Government and to ensure that the benefit of MSP regime is smoothly realized by all the farmers.
