

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

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 64  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2016

QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

\*64. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE:  
SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding distribution of poor quality foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been received, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the quality norms fixed for various foodgrains under PDS, foodgrain-wise;
- (c) whether the Government monitors the quality of foodgrains distributed through PDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism put in place for the purpose and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether there is any grievance redressal system under the PDS for beneficiaries in relation to quality of foodgrains supplied to them and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R  
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

---

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO 64 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.03.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): State-wise details of the complaints about supply of poor quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes and action taken by the Government during last three years and current year are at Annex-I.

(b) The quality norms of various foodgrains for issue under PDS, foodgrain-wise are at Annex-II.

(c) & (d): Yes madam. Government monitors the quality of foodgrains distributed through the PDS. There are standing instructions to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued from FCI godowns to State Governments for distribution under PDS, which are as under:

- (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 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).

Before lifting of stocks of foodgrain from FCI godowns, State Government representatives in association with FCI analyse samples drawn jointly from the stacks to check the quality of the stock. Only after satisfaction about the quality, the stock is issued to State Government alongwith sealed representative sample. After issue of foodgrain to the State Government the quality is monitored by State Governments.

Quality control cells of the Department of Food & Public Distribution located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubneshwar, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, New Delhi, Patna & Pune also monitor the quality of central pool foodgrains in food storage depots of FCI and State Governments.

(e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities including complaints/grievance redressal rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and to secure availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on 31.08.2001 by the Government which mandates the State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said Order, the State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS. As far as quality of foodgrains is concerned, the requirement of joint inspection of foodgrains have been explained in the said Order. State Governments are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of the said Order.

Some States/UTs have established toll free help line numbers for redressal and registration of grievances under TPDS.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, also provides for a two-tier grievance redressal mechanism comprising of District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO) at District level and State Food Commission (SFC) at the State level.

...3....

In order to bring the PDS(C) Order, 2001, in consonance with the National Food Security Act, 2013, (NFSA), the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015 has been notified in supersession of the PDS(C) Order, 2001 for maintaining supplies and securing availability and distribution of foodgrains under the TPDS.

Provisions of the TPDS Control Order 2015 inter-alia address the issue of quality control, joint inspection of foodgrains, monitoring, penalty etc. State Governments are required to take action against those indulge in any irregularity including those affecting quality of foodgrains for smooth implementation of TPDS.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO 64 TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2016 IN LOK SABHA.**

**STATE-WISE DETAILS OF THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS AND OTHER WELFARE SCHEMES AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING LAST THREE YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (AS ON 24.02.2016)**

Year	State	Complaint	Action Taken by the Government
2015-16	NCT, Delhi	A complaint was received from Indraprastha Welfare Association, New Delhi regarding Supply of poor quality of foodgrain in Moti Nagar, Area of Delhi	The complaint was got investigated by deputing an officer of the Ministry. The complaint was not found to be true.
	Maharashtra	A Complaint received from Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Govt. of Maharashtra - regarding supply of luster loss wheat from FCI base depot, Jalgoan and MSWC, Nanded	Instructions were issued to all State Governments to accept the luster loss wheat procured during RMS 2015-16 under the relaxed specifications as luster lost wheat is as nutritious as sound wheat only shining is less and the quality of wheat is intact and good..
	Jammu & Kashmir	A Complaint was received from Director of Consumer affair & P.D. Deptt, Kashmir- regarding Supply of below standard quality wheat under Wheat Relaxation Scheme.	-do-
	Kerala	A complaint was received from Kerala Ration Wholesale Distributor Federation, Kottayam in FCI regarding five bags of damaged rice from FSD Valianthura to PDS.	The complaint was got investigated by Area Manager Thiruvananthapuram and found that stock were lifted by State Government nominee after proper acknowledgement about their satisfaction on quality.
2014-15	Tamil Nadu	A complaint was received from Shri B Lokanathan, resident of Coimbatore regarding supply of foodgrains beyond Food Safety Standard under PDS in Tamil Nadu in July 2014.	The complaint was forwarded to CMD, FCI to investigate the complaint. FCI has informed that complaint was not found to be true.
	NCT Delhi	A complaint was received from Delhi Jan Kalyan Vikas Manch, Mangolpuri regarding supply of substandard foodgrains from FSD Ghevra with the connivance of depot incharge FSD Ghevra and incharge of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation in July 2014	The complaint was forwarded to CMD, FCI and Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies, Government of NCT Delhi to get the complaint investigated and to ensure supply good quality foodgrains to be issued under PDS.
	Odisha	A complaint has been received from Shri Ganesh Lal Aggarwal, Sr. Citizen, Sambalpur, Odisha regarding supply of poor quality of rice under PDS in October 2014.	The complaint was investigated by an officer of this Department and not found to be true.

	Kerala	A complaint has been received in FCI from Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, North Paravur Depot regarding supply of 17 bags of rice from FSD Angamally for Mid Day Meal Scheme in October 2014	General Manager (Region), FCI, Kerala had informed that the complaint was not found to be true.
	Madhya Pradesh	CBI Jabalpur Branch has forwarded a complaint to FCI made by Sh. Santosh Shrivastava, resident of Narsinghpure (MP) regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains in PDS	The complaint was forwarded to Secretary (Food) Govt. of Madhya Pradesh by FCI to get the matter investigated and submit the same to CBI directly since the allegation relates to PDS in the State.
2013-14	Uttar Pradesh	A complaint was received from Shri Atul Gupta, Resident of Baharaich regarding issue of sub-standard rice stocks received from Shajahanpur under PDS.	CMD, FCI has been requested to investigate the matter and ensure supply of good quality foodgrains to State Governments. Principal Secretary (Food & Civil Supplies Department), Government of Uttar Pradesh has also been requested to ensure that good quality foodgrains are issued under PDS to consumers.
		A complaint was received from J N Rai resident of Sirsiyan, District Gorakhpur regarding distribution of poor quality of foodgrains under PDS in Gorakhpur	The complaint was forwarded to Principal Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh to investigate the complaint and to ensure that good quality foodgrains are issued under PDS to consumers.
	Kerala	A complaint was received from Shri Suresh Kumar, resident of Calicut regarding supply of inferior quality of foodgrains under PDS in Kerala.	The complaint was got investigated by deputing an officer of this Ministry and the officers from FCI. Based on the report CMD, FCI was requested to take remedial measures for upgradation of the stocks before issue under PDS as also action against delinquents and ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued under PDS. Principal Secretary (Food & Civil Supplies), Government of Kerala has also been requested to ensure that good quality foodgrains are issued under PDS to consumers.
	Maharashtra	A complaint was received from Shri Anil Mishra, Member of Legislative Council, Maharashtra regarding supply of inferior quality of foodgrains under PDS in Maharashtra.	The complaint has been forwarded to CMD, FCI and Principal Secretary (Food & Civil Supplies), Government of Maharashtra for investigation and necessary action. They have also been requested to ensure the supply and distribution of good quality foodgrains issued under PDS.

2012-13	Puducherry	A complaint received from State President, Nationalist Congress Party, Puducherry regarding supply of poor quality rice stock in the State.	The complaint was got investigated through Food Corporation of India and State Government of Puducherry. The complaint was not found to be true.
	Maharashtra	FCI has informed that a complaint was received regarding issue of contaminated wheat stock to PDS from MSWC, Aurangabad during March/April, 2012.	The complaint was got investigated by CMD MSWC, Pune who reported that contaminated stock were not offered under PDS. Only good quality foodgrain have been issued under PDS. Government of Maharashtra has informed that in an incident at Mauje Ganori, Taluka, Fulambri and Aurangabad contaminated wheat received at fair price shop was replaced and wheat of fair average quality was distributed to the card holders.
	Gujarat	A complaint was received in May, 2012 from Jivabhai Ambalal Patel, Ex-MP (LS) regarding Poor Quality Foodgrains being supplied from FCI and requested for instructions to be issued.	No specific instance was raised in the complaint; however, detailed procedure for supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS from FCI godowns has been apprised to the complainant.
	Uttar Pradesh	A complaint was received from Mrs. Annu Tandon Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS) in March 2013 regarding poor quality of foodgrains supplied under PDS in Sanjar Khera Gram Sabha of block Hitauli in district Unnao(UP).	The complaint has been forwarded to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for investigation, since implementation of PDS at PFS level is the responsibility of State Government. However, an officer of this Ministry was also deputed for assessing the factual position, who has reported that Fair Price Shop situated at Choudhary Tola of Maurawa town is catering the need of four villages including Sanjar Khera. On the day of inspection of fair price shop on 9.4.2013 fresh stock of wheat & rice received during 30.3.2013 to 4.4.2013 was available. The sample of wheat and rice of this stock have been found within issue norms. The inspecting officer also inspected food storage depot from where the stock is issued to the above fair price shop and the stocks have been also found well within the prescribed norms.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO 64 TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2016 IN LOK SABHA.**

**THE QUALITY NORMS OF VARIOUS FOODGRAINS FOR ISSUE UNDER PDS, FOODGRAIN-WISE**

All stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) stored under Central Pool shall be divided into two categories:-

- (i) Issuable stocks : Fit for human consumption within Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) standards.
- (ii) Non-Issuable stocks : The stocks containing damaged grains above 6% in case of wheat & 5% in case of rice shall be treated as Non-Issuable stock, unfit for human consumption.

➤ Issuable Stocks : These shall be categorized under two heads:

(a) Ready stocks: These stocks of wheat and rice may be issued under PDS and other welfare schemes of Government of India.

(i) Wheat: Stock of A and B categories conforming to FSSAI standards and free from insect infestation having foreign matter upto 1% including inorganic foreign matter upto 0.5%.

(ii) Rice: Stock of A, B & C categories conforming to FSSAI standards and free from insect infestation. These stocks may be issued under the PDS and other Welfare Schemes of the Govt. Of India, provided the refractions are upto 20% in excess of the Uniform Specifications of the relevant marketing season in respect of broken grains, chalky grains, red grains, dehusked grains and the incidence of foreign matter does not exceeded 1% including rice bran. Inorganic foreign matter should not exceed 0.5%.

(b) Upgradable stocks : All stocks of wheat and rice other than 'Ready stocks' but containing damaged grains within FSSAI standards shall form part of upgradable stocks:

(i) The quality of these stocks should be thoroughly examined by a Committee comprising of officers from Quality Control, finance & Accounts wings at appropriate levels to certify that these stocks are not conforming to 'Ready stock' and not falling in the category of 'Non-Issuable' stocks.

(ii) These stocks may, wherever possible, be upgraded by manual methods i.e. cleaning, reconditioning etc. under the supervision of Quality Control officers. Such upgraded wheat and rice after certification by Quality Control officers regarding its fitness may be issued under PDS and other welfare schemes of Government of India.

\*\*\*\*\*