

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1462
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd MAY, 2016
RELAXATION IN PROCUREMENT NORMS

1462. SHRI DEVAJIBHAI G. FATEPARA:

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 relaxed the procurement quality norms for procurement of foodgrains for central pool to provide relief to the farmers and protect them from distress sale on account of unseasonal rains during the last and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities in procurement of foodgrains under relaxed norms during the said period, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/ being taken by the Government on such complaints, so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices for the foodgrains produced by the farmers?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): Yes Madam. Details of relaxations in quality norms for procurement of Central Pool foodgrains allowed during last year are at Annex. During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2016-17 no State Government has requested for relaxations in specifications of foodgrains for Central Pool procurement.

(b): No complaint of irregularities in procurement of foodgrains under relaxed norms has been received during last year and current year. However, complaints on procurement below MSP, non opening of purchase centre, delay in payment of MSP etc. The complaints were investigated and found not substantiated.

(c): Government/FCI alongwith State Governments formulate procurement plans to procure foodgrains from the farmers. In plans following steps are included:

1. Government announces Minimum Support Price(MSP) for foodgrains in each season to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers with a view to encourage higher production. Government offers procurement at MSP.
2. MSP operations are given wide publicity through pamphlets, banners, sign boards radio, TV and advertisements through print & electronic media about quality, specifications, purchase system etc to create awareness among farmers.
3. Procurement centres are opened by respective State Govt. Agencies/FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics/infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc.
4. Payments are made through account payee cheque/RTGS to the farmers.

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1462 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.05.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA

DETAILS OF RELAXATIONS ALLOWED IN QUALITY NORMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF CENTRAL POOL FOODGRAINS DURING THE YEAR 2015-16

WHEAT:

S. No.	State	Refractions	Uniform Specifications (Limit %)	Relaxation allowed (Limit %)
1.	Gujarat	Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 25 %
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 10 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 40 %
3.	Rajasthan	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 9 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 50 %
4.	Haryana*	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 10 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Upto 95% in Kaithal district, upto 90% in Mewat, Sonapat, Jind, Palwal, Faridabad & Kurkshetra districts, upto 80% in Karnal, Hissar, Fatehabad & Panipat districts and upto 50% in rest of the State
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 10 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 50 %
6.	Punjab*	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 10 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 50 %
7.	Chandigarh * (UT)	Shrivelled & Broken	6.0	Up to 10 %
		Lustre lost	With full lustre	Up to 50 %

*Wheat can be procured with damaged and slightly damaged grains put together upto 6% with the condition that damaged grains alone may not be exceed more than 4%.

PADDY:

S. No.	State	Refractions	Uniform Specifications (Limit %)	Relaxation allowed
1.	Andhra Pradesh (East Godavari and West Godavari Districts)	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0*	10% (damaged + sprouted + Weevilled grains not to exceed 5.0%)
2.	Uttar Pradesh (Affected districts Bareilly, Sitapur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Faizabad, Gonda, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Agra, Aligarh, Kanpur and Moradabad)	Damaged, Discoloured, Sprouted and Weevilled grains.	5.0*	7% (damaged + sprouted + Weevilled grains not to exceed 5.0%)
3.	Tamil Nadu (Thiruvarur, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam districts)	Moisture Content	17	20
		Immature Shrunken and Shrivelled Grains	3	5

*Damaged, Sprouted and Weevilled grains should not exceed 4%.

RICE:

S. No.	State	Refractions		Uniform Specifications (Limit %)	Relaxation allowed
1.	Andhra Pradesh (East Godavari and West Godavari districts)	Damaged/slightly damaged grains	Raw	3.0	4.0
		Discoloured Grains	Raw	3.0	5.0
		Broken Grains	Raw	25.0	30.0
2.	Uttar Pradesh (Affected districts Bareilly, Sitapur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Faizabad, Gonda, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Agra, Aligarh, Kanpur and Moradabad)	Damaged/slightly damaged grains	Raw	3%	4%
