

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd MAY, 2016

FOOD SCAM

1482. SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI:

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

- (a) whether a scam involving misappropriation of food items worth crores of rupees have been reported from several States including Haryana during the year 2015-16;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State and item-wise; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard including the action taken against the persons found guilty indicating the details of the recoveries made?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain regions/States including Haryana in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on TPDS including complaints related to Haryana for period 2015 - 2016 is at Annexure-I.

Relevant clauses of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, mandates the State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said Control Orders, the State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

The information received from Government of Haryana regarding alleged food scam is at Annexure-II.

As already mentioned, the operational responsibilities of implementation of TPDS within the State including action to be taken against the defaulters including the State Government officials/officers rest with the concerned State/UT Government. Therefore, the information/details of employees/officers continuing to serve in the State Government Departments despite enquiries pending against them, contemplation of giving voluntary retirements to them etc., is not maintained in this Department.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.05.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA

STATEMENT: COMPLAINTS ON TPDS RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS & THROUGH MEDIA REPORTS ETC FROM 2015 & 2016 (upto 31.01.2016)

S. No.	State/UT	2015	2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-
3	Assam	34	1
4	Bihar	106	4
5	Chhattisgarh	6	-
6	Delhi	113	2
7	Goa	-	-
8	Gujarat	8	-
9	Haryana	35	2
10	Himachal Pradesh	4	1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	5	-
12	Jharkhand	32	-
13	Karnataka	16	-
14	Kerala	16	3
15	Madhya Pradesh	17	1
16	Maharashtra	48	4
17	Manipur	6	-
18	Meghalaya	7	-
19	Mizoram	-	-
20	Nagaland	-	-
21	Orissa	22	3
22	Punjab	10	-
23	Rajasthan	33	-
24	Sikkim	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	22	1
26	Telangana	10	-
27	Uttarakhand	24	1
28	Uttar Pradesh	197	21
29	West Bengal	32	1
30	Chandigarh	6	-
31	D& N Haveli	-	-
32	Puducherry	-	-
TOTAL		818	45

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.05.2016

The Government of Haryana vide Memo No. 3SB-I-2016/8791 dated 29.04.2016 has informed that during 2015-16 the following scam involving misappropriation in food items worth crores of rupees have been reported:

1. Food Department

The FCI vide letter dated 04.08.2015 has reported that during loading of racks special of wheat stock it was observed that the wheat stock at Ismailabad Centre is short. On the reporting of FCI the department had constituted 13 members team for special physical verification of stock. The team pointed out shortage of 182091 filled wheat bags of 50 kg. Thereafter all the responsible officers and officials including team members of regular half yearly physical verification team for the period ending 30.06.2015 were place under suspension and criminal case FIR No. 156 dated 16.11.2015 was registered against them at Police Station, Ismailabad Distt. Kurukshetra. The matter is under investigation of the police. After investigation and after assessment of the actual loss, chargesheets for major penalty will be issued later on. In this case the estimated loss is above 18 crores. The department has also issued prosecution sanction to prosecute the culprit in the case.

Further the special physical verification of wheat stock of Pehwa (Kurukshetra) was conducted by the team already constituted for Ismailabad centre and the Inter-Departmental Team reported shortage of 18882 filled wheat bags of 50 kg. Thereafter, all the responsible officers and officials including the physical verification team members who conducted regular half yearly physical verification for the period ending 30.06.2015 were place under suspension and criminal case FIR No. 0118 dated 18.03.2016 was registered against them at Police Station, Pehwa. The matter is under investigation of the police and after investigation and after assessing the actual loss chargesheets for major penalty will be issued later on. In this case the estimated loss is about 2 crores.

2. Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited

A quantity of 7492.65 MT. paddy was allotted to M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill Badhauri, Naraingarh for its milling and delivery of CMR to FCI during current K.M.S. 2015-16. The State Government constituted team to carry out the physical verification of the paddy stocks given to the Rice Mills for its milling. The Physical Verification Team carried out the Physical Verification of the paddy stock lying in the premises of M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill Badhauri, Naraingarh (Ambala) and 6157.48 M.T. paddy worth Rs. 10.67 crores was found short. An FIR No. 344 dated 26.12.2015 was got registered with the Police Station, Naraingarh, District Ambala, Haryana for misappropriation of paddy stocks. The Police Authorities had taken the custody of balance quantity of 1293.32 M.T. paddy, 1.05 M.T. Rice and 11 (eleven) nos. gunny bales lying in the premises of M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill. The Corporation had filed the application in the Court at Naraingarh on 29.02.2016 for taking said paddy and other articles on supardari the matter is pending with the court for final adjudication.
