

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6813
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
ALLOTMENT OF WHEAT
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Animal Feed for export turns up at flour mills` appearing in Indian Express dated April 2, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective measures initiated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S. MAHARIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The factual position in the matter is as follows: The wheat crop 2001-2002 had got damaged by rains during the maturity/harvesting stage of the crop. The Government in relaxation of the prescribed specifications, procured about 168 lakh MT of lustre lost wheat during that year to ensure that the farmers receive a remunerative price for their produce. Though the grains were dull in appearance, the quality of the lustre lost wheat was as good as sound wheat in terms of nutritional value. However, due to the appearance there was some reluctance by a few State Governments to accept the same for distribution under the Public Distribution System and other Welfare schemes. It was then decided that the stocks would be offered to exporters and domestic trade. There was no decision that the stock would be used exclusively for animal feed or for exports. In fact, the lustre lost wheat was offered to flour mills and for export, simultaneously.

The position of luster lost wheat was reviewed in December, 2002 and it was found that the total demand of the exporters and domestic trade was more than the stocks available at that point of time. A conscious decision was therefore, taken that while all firm export commitments made by 18th December, 2002 would be honoured, no further earmarking of stocks would be made for exporters and the balance stock would be reserved for the domestic industry.

(c)&(d): The Government had issued a rebuttal immediately to the Newspaper clarifying the position.