

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
SUPPLY OF POOR QUALITY RICE
Vijay Krishna Shri

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

- (a) whether sub-standard quality of rice has been supplied to the Southern States from the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details of officers and rice mills held responsible therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officers and rice mills to compensate the losses suffered;
- (d) the number of incidents of irregularities committed by FCI officials and merchants reported during the last three years; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check such cases in the future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Against the total quantity of 39.91 lakh MTs of rice dispatched during November, 2004 to October, 2005 to the Southern States from Punjab, quality complaints were received for a total quantity of 3,52,208 MTs. Out of this quantity, for which quality complaints were received, a quantity of 3,06,401 MTs has been issued and only 45807 MTs remains to be under quality complaint, which comes to 1.15% against total dispatch of 39.91 lakh MTs.

(b): As informed by FCI, 11 Category-I and 71 Category-II/III officials have been identified responsible for acceptance/dispatch of sub-standard (BRL/beyond PFA limit) rice. CBI has also registered three FIRs bearing No.RCCHG 2006 A0001, 0002 and 0003 dated 7.1.2006 against 83 officers/officials of the FCI including the then SRM, Punjab and 330 Rice Millers identified by them for acceptance dispatch/delivery of sub standard rice during KMS 2004-05.

(c): As per the information received from FCI, of the 11 Category-I and 71 Category-II/III officers, penalty of dismissal from the services and forfeiture of gratuity, to partially off set the losses suffered by the Corporation have already been imposed upon one Category-I Officer. Business dealing with 88 Rice Millers for the delivery of poor quality rice has been banned. Various other Rice Millers identified for delivery of poor quality of rice have given unqualified undertaking for replacement of such stocks with the stocks conforming to specifications and replacement by them is in progress. Therefore ban against them was revoked by General Manager (Pb.).

(d): As informed by FCI in all 1481 chargesheets have been issued to the officers/officials of FCI for acceptance/dispatch of sub-standard stocks during the last three years.

(e): To avoid the recurrence of such incidence, following steps have been taken;

(i) A large number of officers/officials who were found responsible for acceptance of BRL/beyond PFA limit stocks were either placed under suspension or transferred out of region or banned for acceptance of rice besides regular disciplinary action against them, by FCI.

(ii) Some procedural changes have also been made by the FCI during the KMS 2005-06 and teams for Regional Office/District Office constituted for collection/drawal of samples of rice stocks being accepted for analysis in the concerned Labs and immediate action is taken on detection of BRL stocks.

(iii) Notorious Centers and millers have been identified and Area Managers/Assistant General Managers(QC) have been instructed by FCI to keep a strict vigil on them in order to ensure that no sub standard rice is delivered by unscrupulous millers in connivance with the staff/officers of the FCI.

(iv) The inspection reports of concerned officers of FCI relating to procurement of rice are being closely monitored in the Regional/Zonal offices.

(v) Frequent checking of procurement centers including rice procurement by various squads including vigilance squads and joint

teams of officers of FCI and the Ministry have been ensured.

(vi) As a result of above steps, no destination quality complaint against stocks of rice procured/dispatched ex Punjab region, during the month of October, November and December,2005 during KMS 2005-06 have been received.