

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1594
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
PROCUREMENT OF POOR QUALITY FOODGRAINS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

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

- (a) whether Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms have been fixed to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are procured by the Government agencies;
- (b) if so, whether the said norms have been/are being flouted with impunity in the procurement of foodgrains;
- (c) if so, the number of officers booked for violating FAQ norms alongwith the action taken against them during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the off-take under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been very low due to the procurement of poor quality foodgrains; and
- (e) if so, the remedial steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the FAQ norms?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

- (a): Yes Sir, Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms are fixed by the Government to procure good quality foodgrains.
- (b): No Sir, Prescribed specifications are strictly adhered to during procurement of foodgrains. However, during inspection by various authorities in stray cases some quantities of foodgrains are found procured not conforming to specifications prescribed for the particular procurement season for which immediate remedial measures such as, replacement of stocks etc. are taken. The officials found indulging in such activities are immediately taken to task and suitable disciplinary action initiated against them promptly.
- (c): Details of officers/officials of Food Corporation of India found responsible for procurement of poor quality of foodgrains including other irregularities during the last three years is as under:-

Sl. No Nature of penalty imposed 2003 2004 2005 2006 upto
June

1. Dismissal/removal/ compulsorily retired	56	37	44	34
2. Reduction in rank	66	39	30	02
3. Reduction in time scale of pay	420	361	313	130
4. Withholding of increment	146	168	118	83
5. Recovery from pay of loss caused to FCI	964	1346	886	515
6. Withholding of promotion	12	06	05	02
7. Censure	427	489	307	132
Total	2091	2446	1703	898
8. Warning/exoneration/cases closed	375	412	248	103
Grand Total	2466	2858	1951	1001

Besides CBI has also registered three cases against 83 category VIII/III officers/officials and 330 Rice Millers of Punjab in January, 2006 for procurement of poor quality rice kharif 2004-05.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.