

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:271
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
ALLOCATION OF POOR QUALITY WHEAT
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

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

- (a) Whether the Government has allocated poor quality of wheat for distribution under the Public Distribution System and other foodgrain based welfare schemes ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the States from where such complaints have been received during the last three years; and
- (c) The action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a),(b),&(c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 271 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2006 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) : No, Sir. Wheat of only Fair Average Quality (FAQ) is issued for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other foodgrain based welfare schemes.

(b)&(c): No complaint regarding allocation of poor quality wheat for distribution under PDS and other welfare schemes has been received from any of the State Governments /UT Administrations during the last three years. However, in a vast net work with 4.86 lac Fair Price Shops(FPSs) in the country, the possibilities of complaints in some cases/ places can not be ruled out. Whenever the Government receives such complaints, these are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/agencies for appropriate action. With a view to ensuring that only good quality foodgrains are issued to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for distribution to consumers, the Government has taken following steps :-

(a) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(b) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(c) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI at the time of issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(d) The officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the Department of Food & Public Distribution of the Ministry carry out surprise checks of the FPSs, to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

(e) The officers of the Department of Food & Public Distribution of the Ministry designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the PDS work in the respective States/UTs also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States/UTs to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.