

Title: Supply of inferior quality of rice to North Eastern region.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (DIBRUGARH): Sir, with great anger and anguish, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government. The Central Government is very casual in regard to the treatment given to the North-Eastern Region. The Ministers of Food from the North-Eastern Region and the Secretaries have held a meeting because the rice supplied by the FCI is not fit for human consumption. They have protested about it. They have appealed to the Central Government time and again. But the Central Government is treating the North-Eastern Region as a dumping ground for its rotten food. The Ministers of Supply from the States of Tripura and also of Assam have protested to the Central Government.

I want that the Central Government must institute an inquiry about that rotten food. It is not fit for human consumption. (Interruptions) They have sent it to the Laboratory which has given a report that the food is not fit for human consumption.

I request through you that the Government must come forward with a statement because, as you know, the insurgents are very active there. They say that the Central Government while sitting in Delhi think that the people of the North-Eastern Region are like animals and, hence, they are supplying this type of rotten food. They are making publicity going from village to village. This is becoming a very great issue for the Governments in Tripura and also in Assam. They are facing this problem in their state.

I want that the Central Government must come forward with a statement and rectify all this wrongdoing towards the North-Eastern Region and correct this position immediately without further delay. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would call you afterwards. Now, Shri Bhaura. He has given a notice.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (BHATINDA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House as well as the Central Government to the newsitem 'Inferior rice dumped on NE' published in the *Times of India* on 4th December, 2001.

I associate myself with Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar. I want the Central Government to give a suitable reply regarding this issue and help the North-Eastern Region.
