श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: सर, में पूरे अदब के साथ माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूं, आप दोनों प्वाइंट्स को, इस प्रश्न में दो अलग-अलग मुद्दे हैं, आप दोनों को कंपयूज कर गए हैं। आपने 0.17 मिलियन एकड़ फीट पानी का जिक्र किया है। यह 0.17 मिलियन एकड़ फीट पानी रावी और व्यास का है और जो ताजेवाल हैड वर्क्स का सवाल है, वह यमुना का है, दोनों अलग-अलग हैं।...(व्यवधान)...आपने कहा है कि आप वहां से पानी क्यों नहीं दे सकते, तो ये दोनों अलग-अलग हैं। दोनों के बारे में जो मुख्य सवाल था, उसके उत्तर में मैंने यह स्पष्ट किया है कि दोनों की स्थित इस वक्त क्या है। राजस्थान को अपने शेयर का पानी मिल रहा है। आपने दूसरी बात पूरी नहीं चलाई, उसके लिए पंजाब राज्य का भी बीच में कोई प्राब्लम है और वह augmentation and restoration of capacity of BML है, आप अपनी सरकार पर इसके लिए दबाव डाल सकते हैं। आप कह रहे हैं कि आप पर दबाव डाला जा रहा है, वह नहीं हुआ। आप आपस में बैठकर उसकी capacity के बारे में फैसला कर सकते हैं कि जो BML के लिए है, उसमें से कितना पानी discharge हो सकता है। 12,500 cusecs या जो आप कहते हैं कि अगर उनको उनका हिस्सा देना होगा, तो उसको साढ़े चौदह हजार पर लेकर जाना होगा। अगर उस बात को आपस में तय कर लें, तो यह समस्या न तो यहां रहेगी और न ही यह सुप्रीम कोर्ट में रहेगी।

सड़े हुए गेंहू का वितरण

- *66 **श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास**: क्या **उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :
- (क) क्या मंत्रालय को इस बात की जानकारी है कि विभिन्न राज्यों में गरीब परिवारों को विभिन्न योजनाओं के अंतर्गत वितरित किया जा रहा गेहूं सड़ा हुआ या फफूंद लगा हुआ होता है तथा काला पड़ा हुआ होता है;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार को किन-किन राज्यों से इस प्रकार की शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं; और
 - (ग) इस स्थिति में सुधार लाने हेतु क्या-क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं?

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (प्रो. के.वी. थॉमस): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) गोआ और ओड़िशा की राज्य सरकारों ने महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय की एकीकृत बाल विकास स्कीम के अधीन गेंहू पोषाहार कार्यक्रम के तहत खराब गुणवत्ता वाले गेंहूं की आपूर्ति के बारे में शिकायत की है। भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा दार्जिलिंग जिले के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों को सड़े हुए गेंहूं और चावल की आपूर्ति करने के बारे में श्री जसवन्त सिंह, संसद सदस्य, लोकसभा से शिकायत प्राप्त हुई थी। भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने सूचित किया है कि राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिनिधियों को केवल उचित औसत किस्म के गेंहूं का स्टाक जारी किया गया था और इस संबंध में राज्य सरकारों से प्रमाण-पत्र भी लिया गया था। प्रतिनिधियों ने जारी स्टाक की गुणवत्ता और मात्रा से संतुष्ट होने के बारे में प्रेषिती रिपोर्ट पर हस्ताक्षर भी किए थे।

मध्याह्न भोजन योजना चलाने वाले मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने सूचित किया है कि वर्ष 2010 और 2011 के दौरान बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, असम और आन्ध्र प्रदेश राज्यों में उस समय विभिन्न विद्यालयों में खराब गुणवत्ता के खाद्यान्न प्राप्त होने के मामले ध्यान में लाए गए थे जिन्हें इन राज्यों में खाद्य और नागरिक आपूर्ति विभाग तथा भारतीय खाद्य निगम के ध्यान

में डिब्रीफिंग बैठकों के दौरान ला दिया गया था। इसके बाद यह बात संबंधित राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों और मध्याह्न भोजन योजना के जिला प्राधिकारियों और भारतीय खाद्य निगम के अधिकारियों को फिर से लिखी गई थी कि उठाया जा रहा खाद्यान्न उचित औसत किस्म का है यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विहित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार संयुक्त निरीक्षण किया जाना चाहिए।

- (ग) यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली तथा अन्य खाद्यान्न आधारित कल्याण योजनाओं के लिए केवल अच्छी गुणवत्ता वाला तथा संक्रमण रहित अनाज ही जारी किया जाए, निम्नलिखित प्रक्रिया विहित की गई है और राज्य सरकारों/भारतीय खाद्य निगम को समय-समय पर अनुदेश जारी किए गए हैं:-
 - (i) लिक्षित सार्वजिनक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन अच्छी गुणवत्ता, संक्रमण रहित और खाद्य सुरक्षा मानकों तथा मानक अिधनियम/नियमावली (पूर्व में खाद्य अपिमश्रण निवारण अिधनियम) के अनुरूप खाद्यान्न जारी किए जाएं।
 - (ii) भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों से खाद्यान्नों के स्टाक का उठान करने से पहले खाद्यान्नों की गुणवत्ता की जांच करने के लिए राज्य सरकार को पर्याप्त अवसर प्रदान किए जाएं।
 - (iii) लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन जारी किए जाने वाले खाद्यान्नों के स्टाक से भारतीय खाद्य निगम और राज्य खाद्य एवं नागरिक आपूर्ति विभाग द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से खाद्यान्नों के नमूने एकत्र और सीलबन्द किए जाएं ताकि उपभोक्ताओं के लाभ के लिए इनका उचित दर दुकानों पर प्रदर्शन किया जा सके। उचित दर दुकानों के डीलर शिकायत रजिस्टर रखें ताकि जारी किए जाने वाले खाद्यान्नों की गुणवत्ता सही न होने के मामले में उपभोक्ता शिकायत दर्ज कर सकें।
 - (iv) भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों से खाद्यान्नों के स्टाक की सुपुर्दगी लेने के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा तैनात किया जाने वाला अधिकारी निरीक्षक के पद से नीचे का नहीं होना चाहिए।
 - (v) खाद्यान्नों की गुणवत्ता की जांच करने के लिए सरकार के अधिकारियों द्वारा नियमित निरीक्षण किए जाएं और मंत्रालय के गुण-नियंत्रण कक्ष के अधिकारियों द्वारा औचक जांच की जाए।
 - (vi) यह सुनिश्चित करना संबंधित राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों की जिम्मेदारी होती है कि वितरण शृंखला के विभिन्न अवस्थाओं पर ढुलाई और भंडारण के दौरान खाद्यान्नों की अपेक्षित गुणवत्ता यथावत बनाई रखी जाए।
 - (vii) जहां विकेन्द्रीकृत खरीद प्रचालन में है वहां राज्य सरकार को सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि लक्षित सार्वजिनक वितरण प्रणाली और अन्य कल्याण योजनाओं के अधीन जारी खाद्यान्नों की गुणवत्ता खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक अधिनियम के अधीन वांछित मानकों को पूरा करती हो।

Distribution of rotten wheat

 \dagger^* 66. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLICE DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that wheat being distributed to poor

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

families of various States under different schemes is rotten or infected with fungus and blackened;

- (b) if so, the States from where such complaints have been received by Government; and
 - (c) the efforts made for improvement therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLICE DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) State Governments of Goa and Odisha have complained about supply of poor quality of wheat under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme under Integrated Child Development Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. A complaint was received from Shri Jaswant singh, MP Lok Sabha regarding supply of rotten wheat and rice to hill areas of Darjeeling District by Food Corporation of India. FCI has informed that only fair average quality (FAQ) stocks of wheat were issued to the representatives of the State Governments and a certificate was also obtained from State Government in this regard. The representatives had also signed a consignee's report as satisfied with the quality and quantity of stocks issued.

Ministry of Human Resource Development which operates the Scheme of Mid Day Meal has informed that instances of poor quality of foodgrains being received in various schools in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, UP, Assam and Andhra Pradesh had come to their notice during the years 2010 and 2011 which were brought to the notice of Department of Food and Civil Supplies in these States as well as FCI in their debriefing sessions. Thereafter it was reiterated to the concerned State Government officials as well as District MDM authorities and FCI officials that joint inspection should be conducted as per the laid down procedure to ensure that foodgrains being lifted are of Fair Average Quality.

- (c) In order to ensure that only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation are issued for public distribution system (PDS) as well as all other food based welfare schemes, following procedures have been laid down and instructions issued from time to time to State Governments/FCI:-
 - (i) Only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation and conforming to the Standards of Food Safety and Standards Act/Rules (formerly PFA) are to be issued under TPDS.
 - (ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
 - (iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Food and

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Civil Supplies Department for display in Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers. FPS dealers are to maintain a complaint register to enable the consumers to lodge their complaints, in case the quality of the foodgrains issued is not proper.

- (iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government and surprise checks are carried out by the officers of Quality Control Cell of the Ministry.
- (vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transporation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- (vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने अपने उत्तर में गोवा, ओडिशा और दार्जिलिंग आदि जिलों के बारे में कुछ सूचनाएं दी हैं। मेरे पास ऐसी रिपोर्ट्स हैं, जिनमें हरियाणा, राजस्थान के कनकपुरा, महाराष्ट्र के गढ-चिरोली आदि अनेक स्थानों पर इस प्रकार की शिकायतें मिली हैं कि गरीबों को दिए जाने वाले अन्न में फंगस लगा है और वह जानवरों के खाने लायक तक भी नहीं है।

में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इन विषयों को ध्यान में रखकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने क्या कोई टिप्पणी की थी, यदि मंत्री जी को उसके बारे में कोई जानकारी है, तो वे कृपया इस बारे में बताएं?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, there have been complaints from various quarters, from hon. Members of Parliament. These complaints have been examined and we have taken action. In 2011-12, a complaint was received from the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Jaswant Singh, regarding supply of rotten wheat and rice to hill areas of Darjeeling District. This was investigated. We found that there were leakages and damages. Therefore, actions have been taken. Similarly, in the case of Bihar also we had received complaints. We have looked into it. The hon. Member of Parliament, Shrimati Brinda Karat, also raised the issue regarding supply of rotten foodgrains to tribal areas. The matter has been examined and wherever actions were required to be taken, those actions have been taken. But, I would like to inform the House that the damage to the foodgrains is to the tune of 0.01 per cent. In 2002-03, the quantity of damage was 1.35 lakhs million tonnes. In 2010-11, it was 0.06 lakh tonnes. We are handling about 60 million tonnes of foodgrains in the country. Mainly, the responsibility of the Government of India is to make available foodgrains to the State Governments in the designated godowns. There is a joint mechanism by which both the State Governments and our FCI officers check the quality of the

foodgrains. Even samples are being taken. Sir, when a huge quantity of foodgrains is being circulated, there can be some damages. We are taking actions. We are taking action against officers of the FCI also.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: महोदय, मैंने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के बारे में पूछा था, कृपया इस बारे में बताया जाए?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, coming to the observation made by the Supreme Court, there was a general comment that there was damage to the foodgrains and 50 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains to be distributed among 174 poorest districts in the country. We agreed to it. We allocated 50 lakhs tonnes, as per the comment made by the Supreme Court. But so far only 5 lakh tonnes have been distributed. This is the position in the country. This was the general comment which the Supreme Court had made.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि अधिकांशत: जो केन्द्रीय गोदाम हैं, वर्षा के कारण उनका बहुत सा अनाज सड़ जाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी ये जानना चाहता हूं कि इस वर्ष उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए कितना प्रावधान किया गया है? सभी राज्यों में उनको इस प्रकार पूरी तरह से ढक कर रखना, ताकि वह अनाज वर्षा के पानी से खराब न हो, इस बजट में क्या प्रावधान किया गया है?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, there are well-defined quality control norms specified by the Government of India for procurement of good quality foodgrains for purposes of distribution through the PDS. Prior to the commencement of both the Rabi and the Kharif procurement seasons, our department sends specifications and we also send our senior officers to discuss the matter with the procurement States; necessary instructions are given. The instructions are basically a long procedure to be followed by the procuring States.

In respect of distributing States, the procedure is that there are FCI godowns from where the State agencies procure the foodgrains. As I said earlier, there is a joint mechanism of inspection and there are FAQ norms for this purpose. Samples are collected and those samples are kept for further inspection. This is a joint responsibility of both the State Government and the Government of India.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यासः मैं प्रावधान के बारे में पूछ रहा हूं, वे बता नहीं रहे हैं...(व्यवधान)... MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Shri Moinul Hassan, please.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: My question is this, Sir. The hon. Minister has referred to the letters of complaint written by Shrimati Brinda Karat and Shri Jaswant Singhji regarding West Bengal and Bihar and the hon. Minister has given us the percentage of total wheat that is rotten and he also has said that this quantity is very minimum. But our experience has been different. Now, we have supplying this rotten wheat to the Mid-Day Meal Programme which is meant for small children who are our nation's future. Sir, it is a fact that they are eating this rotten wheat day after day. It is a fact that these children are eating this rotten wheat from the FCI godowns and other agencies. Sir, I am very much aware of this and I very strongly

feel that this is a criminal offence. The hon. Minister has said that action has been taken. What action has been taken? I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action has been taken in this respect against those criminals who are involved in this

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, so far as the action taken is concerned, I have a very long list pertaining to each State which I will pass on to the hon. Member. Sir, Shrimati Brinda Karat raised the issue in Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha on 24-03-2011 about the supply of rotten foodgrains in the tribal areas of the country. I personally discussed the issue with them. I saw the samples. The matter was investigated and the FCI reported that four tribal districts of Andhra Pradesh, two of Maharashtra and one each of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, were inspected and it was found that all rice samples in these districts were found to be within the norms. The hon. Member was accordingly informed and she was satisfied. In the Mid Day Meal also, the foodgrains are taken by the State Governments. At that point when the State Governments take it from the FCI godown, there is a joint inspection of samples. Those samples are kept and if there is a complaint, then, the samples are examined. This is the procedure that is followed. I also wish to state that this news is always spread that huge damage takes place. That is not a fact. I am prepared to discuss it with any hon. Member. One important point is that in 2009-10, acquired quality of damaged foodgrains was 0.02 lakh tonnes when the off-take by the States was 172.99 lakh metric tonnes. So, out of 172.99 lakh metric tonnes which was given to the States in 2009-10, the damaged quantity was only 0.02 lakh tonnes. This is quite possible. But I am not saying that this is an encouraging sign. But we are taking all the action. That is why the hon. Supreme Court had observed that there was huge damage and, so, 50 lakh tonnes should be earmarked for the poor. Sir, we have earmarked it as per the observation of the hon. Supreme Court. But till date not even 5 lakh tonnes has been distributed by the States.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister to give a categorical reply, not an evasive one, as to whether rotten and infested foodgrains were supplied to West Bengal and other hill areas under ICDS and Mid Day Meals Scheme; if yes, what steps have been taken 'at source' I am emphasizing 'at source' to stop such supply of inferior foodgrains. If not, the reasons therefor. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, regarding West Bengal, I am prepared to give a detailed reply; it is a very detailed reply. A complaint was received from Shri Jaswant Singh, an hon. MP from Lok Sabha, regarding the supply of rotten wheat and rice to hill areas of Darjeeling district by the Food Corporation of India. This is one of the cases I am mentioning. There are other cases too. There is a long list of case and I can pass it on to the hon. Member. We have investigated into every cases and we have taken action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, that would be better. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: धन्यवाद सर। सर, मेरा खयाल है कि पी.एम. से लेकर गरीब आदमी तक हम सब consumers हैं। Consumer का जो right है कि वह अच्छी चीज खाए, उसे अच्छी चीज supply हो, यह सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। आपने जो guidelines issue की हैं कि इंस्पेक्टर यह करेगा, वह करेगा, क्या आपने खुद या आपके किसी सीनियर ऑफिसर ने जो मिड-डे मील पका है, उसे कभी खाने की कोशिश की है? अगर आप उसे खाने की कोशिश करते, तब पता चलता कि वहां सफाई क्या होती है। क्या आप यह practice future में adopt करना चाहेंगे?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the Mid-Day Meals scheme is implemented by the State Government. We only supply the foodgrains. I have also gone to my constituency; there is also Mid-Day Meals scheme being implemented. Our responsibility is to make available the necessary quantity of foodgrains. Regarding the quality, as I said, there are a large number of protocols, which have always been skipped. If there is a complaint, we look into it.

Paid news

- *67. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a Sub-Committee constituted by the Press Council of India has studied the issue of paid news;
- (b) whether any of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee have been put into force; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes, Sir. The Press Council of India (PCI) constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the issue of 'Paid News' and to collect evidence from stakeholders including Election Commission of India. The Sub-Committee submitted its Report for consideration by the full Council.

The FCI, after consideration of the matter and the Sub-Committee's report, finalized its 'Report on Paid News' and the Chairman, PCI forwarded the same to the Government for necessary action.

The major recommendations made by the PCI in its Report include,

- ➤ Representation of the People Act, 1951, be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.
- ➤ The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of 'Paid News' to give final judgement in the matter.
- Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview, and