

1	2	3	4
19.	57001	Badagandi	M/s. Bilagi Sugar Mill Ltd., Badagandi, Bilagi, Distt. Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin : 587 116
20.	27401	Bidar	Bidar SSK Ltd., Hallikhed, Distt. Bidar, Karnataka
21.	27701	K.R. Nagar	Shree Ambika Sugars Ltd., Tal. K. R. Nagar, P.O. Chunchanakatte, Distt.-Maysore, Karnataka
22.	40701	Imampur	Naranja SSK Ltd., Village Chillerai, Distt. Bidar, Karnataka
23.	55901	Baroor	M/s. Bhavani Khandsari Sugars Ltd., Vill. Baroor, Taluq & Distt. Bidar, Karnataka - 585 257

Poor quality of foodgrains under PDS

†1731. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country is on the verge of collapse;

(b) whether the quality of foodgrains supplied under PDS is also very poor and many a times consumers get rotten grains;

(c) whether despite the implementation of Mid-Day-Meal scheme in the schools, arrangements are not being made for nutritious meals;

(d) whether there are laws to put a curb on this but its effects are not being seen; and

(e) the plan of the Ministry to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is an important part of Government's policy for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

management of food economy in the country. Evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS have been got conducted from time to time. These studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. Copies of these reports have been forwarded to the States/UTs concerned for taking necessary remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS. However, in an independent study on TPDS conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and Others (2011) in 9 States, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of PDS across the country during the recent years. The researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been also mentioned that the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

(b) Three complaints about poor quality of foodgrains issued to State Governments and distribution under TPDS have been received during 2012-13 in the Department. On investigation, these complaints were not found to be true.

In order to ensure that only good quality foodgrains conforming to Food Safety Standards are issued from Food Corporation India (FCI) godowns to the State Governments for TPDS and other welfare schemes, this Department has issued several instructions from time to time to Food Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and FCI.

(c) to (e) Under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy), a nutritious hot cooked meal is provided with an energy content of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein, which is derived from 100 gms of foodgrains (rice/wheat), 20 gms of pulses, 50 gms of vegetables and 5 gms of oil for children studying in primary classes. At upper primary level, the Scheme provides for an energy content of 700 calories and 20 grams of protein, which is derived from 150 gms of foodgrains (rice/wheat), 30 gms of pulses, 75 gms of vegetables and 7.5 gms of oil. Nutrition content is further improved by using double fortified salt with iron and iodine as well as green leafy vegetables, as per the MDMS guidelines.

Further, the Government has taken the following steps to ensure serving of quality and nutritious food under the MDMS:

- (i) FCI is responsible for issue of foodgrains of at least Fair Average Quality (FAQ); the District Collector/CEO of Zila Panchayat ensure that foodgrains of at least FAQ are lifted after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI

and the nominee of the Collector and/or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, and confirmation by them that the grain conforms to at least FAQ norms.

- (ii) The Government has made elaborate arrangements through MDMS guidelines to ensure that children get good quality meal to their satisfaction. As per norms, the food is to be tasted by 2-3 adults, including at least one teacher, before it is served to children.
- (iii) Representatives of Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), School Management & Development Committees (SMDCs) as well as Mothers' Committees are required to monitor (a) the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid day meal served to children, (b) cleanliness in cooking and serving of the mid day meal, (c) procurement of good quality ingredients and (d) implementation of a varied menu. Supervisory Officers are required to inspect about 25% of the schools every quarter.
- (iv) The cooking cost has been increased by 7.5% annually in the last three years for provision of pulses, vegetables and oils to ensure the nutritive value of the food.
- (v) To ensure safety and hygiene in the preparation of mid-day-meal, Central assistance of Rs. 7024.76 Crore has already been released till March, 2012 to States/UTs for construction of 9,60,087 kitchen-cum-stores. Out of these, 5,60,546 kitchen-cum-stores have been constructed and 95,867 are under construction.

Production and sale of fake items

1732. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the production and sale of fake branded items have been rising throughout the country;
- (b) if so, whether any estimate has been made to assess the loss to Government revenue due to this malpractice;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to check such malpractices in the country?