

Procurement of poor quality rice by FCI

*345. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 21000 bags of poor quality Custom Milled Rice (CMR) have been found stocked at the Kalanwali depot of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the first week of February, 2014;

(b) if so, the reasons for accepting the below rejection limit quality rice by the concerned officers from millers;

(c) the total losses incurred by Government in the matter along with the action taken against the officers accountable for the scam; and

(d) the further action taken by Government for procurement of quality rice for Central pool from millers in future?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): A quantity of 869 tons (17380 bags) of poor quality custom milled rice was detected in the Kalanwali depot of Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the inspection of Regional/Zonal squads of FCI in the month of January, 2014.

(b) and (c) Procurement of poor quality rice was done by the procuring officers of FCI in connivance with the rice millers. As these stocks were got replaced from the concerned millers at their costs with good quality stocks as per the prescribed specifications, no losses were incurred. Disciplinary action against the concerned Manager (Quality Control) and two Technical Assistants of FCI has been taken by imposing penalty of recovery of ₹50,000/- and ₹25,000/- respectively alongwith reduction of two increments of pay for one year.

(d) Government formulates uniform specifications for procurement of central pool rice stock before the commencement of every Kharif Marketing Season and all procuring agencies have to procure rice conforming to uniform specification under levy and custom milled rice from the millers. Checks at various levels are carried out by FCI officials. In case of any grievance of rice millers during procurement of rice, they can also appeal to higher authorities against the decision of accepting authorities in depot.