

**Procurement of sub-standard Paddy and Rice**

1076. SHRI R.K.ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard paddy and rice have been procured,
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken in the matter; and
- (d) the steps taken to procure standard quality of paddy and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures paddy and rice stocks as per laid down specifications of the Government of India and as per the relaxation of specifications as decided by Government of India from time to time. During the subsequent inspections, if any sub-standard foodgrains procured is detected, action is taken against delinquents by the concerned authorities.

(d) FCI and State procuring agencies have been advised to procure paddy and rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications prescribed by the Government of India.

**Onion, as an essential commodity**

†1077. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that onion is not being considered as an essential commodity for the consumption of common poor people in the country by Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor,
- (c) whether it is also a fact the availability and production of onion have been assessed by Government before taking the decision to put the onion out of the purview of Essential Commodity Act; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.