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Government of Odisha
Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department

No.QC-7/16(Pt) 3145 /SFSCW, dated the 9/2/2016

From

Sri Madhusudan Padhi, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government.

To

The Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
FCI Headquarters, 16-20 Barakhamba Lane,
New Delhi-110001.

Sub: Problem faced by State Agencies to deliver Custom Milled Rice to FCI due to newly specified gunny bags.

Ref: (i) Letter No. 15-5/2014-PY-III dt.24.11.2015 of Govt. of India, Ministry of CAF & PD, Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution.

(ii) Letter No.Jute(Mktg)93/2014-IV dt.14.12.2015 of Jute Commissioner.

(iii) Letter No.4(I)/Misc. Gunny/2013-14(Pt.II) Dt.21.01.2016 of FCI

(iv) Circular No.Proc.III/5(13)/99/Vol.II dt.25.02.2000 of FCI Headquarters.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above and letter, I am to draw your kind attention to the following facts:

1. Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has approved standard for manufacturing of 580 gms 50kg capacity jute bags with IS mark of IS 16186:2014. The same is now being used to pack custom milled rice from December 2015 as per direction of Govt. of India instead of gunny bags of 665 gm weight (being used till November'2015).

2. Jute Commissioner has notified Production Control Order effective from the month of December, 2015 where in specification for 50 kg capacity B.Twill gunny bags have been detailed. Government of India in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have allowed temporary exemption to the provision of mandatory BIS licence to be obtained by jute

mills for supply of 580 gm. jute bags through DGS&D from December, 2015 for a period of 2 months. Subsequently, this time line has been extended up to 31st March, 2016 by Govt. of India.

3. FCI Headquarters has issued circular on 21.01.2016 (as referred above) with the following instructions:

"As per revised BIS specifications IS 16186:2014 (copy enclosed) the weight of jute gunny is 580 gm. with tolerance (+) 8%, (-) 6%. Therefore, the bags whose tare weight on delivery of the consignment is found less than the permissible weight limit of 580 gm. (+) 8% and (-) 6% shall be rejected.

The lower permissible weight limit for acceptance is 545.20 gm. The gunny weight found less than 545.20 gm. shall be rejected."

The impact of the above circular is that if there are a few gunny bags whose tare weight is below 545.20 gm., the entire load of 540 bags (Q.270.00) is being rejected by FCI. This is resulting in huge financial loss for the millers and the State Agencies for whom the millers are delivering CMR.

4. In this regard, the circular of FCI dtd.25.02.2000 may please be referred to wherein specification was as per IS 12650 for gunnies weighing 665 gm. That circular read:

"The specified tare weight for 50 Kg. bag at 20% moisture regain as per IS:12650/97 is 665 gms. (+10%, - 7.5%). In other words the tare weight of individual bag may vary from 616 gms. to 732 gms. Therefore, in consultation with finance and approval of the competent Authority, it has been decided that there should no cut if the tare weight of the bag is 615 gms. and above. However, a cut on Rs.1/- per bag may be levied when the average tare weight ranges from below 615 gms. upper to 584 gms. lower, where the tare weight of the 50 Kg. gunny bag is ranging from below 584 gms. to 554 gms., a cut of Rs.2/- per bag may be imposed. The

SBT gunny bags having a tare weight below of 554 gms. may be rejected."

Thus, even though the IS specification for the weight of the 50 kg gunny bag was for 665 gm., FCI allowed bags between 615 gm. to 584 gm. weight with a value cut of Rs.1/- per bag and even up to 554 gm. weight with a value cut of Rs.2/- per bag. Thus, gunny bags were being accepted with up to tare weight of 554 gm. which comes to 16.7% below the standard weight of 665 gms.

5. Subsequently, the FCI Hqs. has issued a letter on 12.10.2015 wherein they have mentioned that the above instructions do not apply to gunny bags purchased through DGS&D and used for wheat & CMR and that above instructions was only valid for gunny bags for CMR & levy if the gunny bags are provided by the millers. Therefore reading of two circulars of 25.02.2000 and 12.10.2015 indicate that if the gunnies are procured through DGS&D, then they would be accepted without any value cut.

6. Now hundreds of lots of CMR of Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) are being rejected on ground of less weight of gunnies. It is worthwhile to mention that all the gunnies procured by OSCSC are through DGS&D only. These gunnies are inspected by DGS&D quality personnel before release from the jute mills. So if gunny weight less than the 545 gm. then neither the OSCSC nor the miller is responsible for the same. DGS&D is a Government of India agency and its quality checks are to be accepted by one and all.

Secondly, the letter of DGS&D [No.QA-IC-1/IISE/2010(Vol-III)] addressed to Joint Secretary(Policy), Ministry of Food & P.D dtd.11.01.2016 indicates that the average moisture regain (MR%) of bags is 22% maximum. It is a fact that the Jute Mills supply the sealed bales of gunnies with specified weight to OSCSC. Once the bales are opened and bags are taken out for packing CMR, the moisture of gunnies reduces and this results in weight loss of gunnies. The undersigned has seen this happen while visiting mills, where

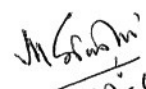
the weight loss was more than 10% i.e. 70 gms+ for 665 gms. gunnies within 3-4 days of opening of the bales. Under such circumstances, it is essential for FCI to check the moisture of the gunnies packed with CMR. Once the moisture of gunnies is found out, then the weight loss can be accounted for.

7. In view of the above facts, I would request your personal intervention in the matter so that the OSCSC, other State agencies and the Millers are not harassed by FCI on account of less weight of gunnies for which they are not responsible at all. Otherwise it will not only create confusion in the field but also hamper the PDS operations under NFSA as many of the millers are now reluctant to deliver rice to FCI because their lots being returned on the ground that it is weighing 536 gms or 525 gms etc. which is less than the lower limit of 545.20 gms prescribed by FCI Headquarters.

In short, I would request that as the gunnies are provided to OSCSC through DGS&D after inspection by DGS&D QC Staff and as neither the State Agency nor the millers have any role in increasing or decreasing the weight of the gunnies, gunny weight should not be made a criteria for rejecting the lots which results in huge loss on account of transportation, loading, unloading and repacking.

I would request you to issue appropriate instructions immediately in this regard so that procurement operations in Odisha proceed smoothly and FCI depots receive CMR from State agencies without any hitch.

Yours faithfully,


09-02-2016

Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No 3146 / Dated 9/2/2016


Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (P & FCI) to Govt. of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & P.D., Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for information.


9.2.16

Deputy Secretary to Government


Memo No. 3147 / Dated 9/2/2016

Copy forwarded to the Jute Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, CGO Complex, 3rd MSI Building, E&F Wings, DF Block, 4th Floor, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata for information.


9.2.16
Deputy Secretary to Government


Memo No. 3148 / Dated 9/2/2016

Copy forwarded to the General Manager (Odisha), FCI, Regional Office, Khadya Bhawan, Satsang Vihar, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


9.2.16
Deputy Secretary to Government

Memo No. 3149 / Dated 9/2/2016

Copy forwarded to the Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd., Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


9.2.16
Deputy Secretary to Government