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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOOD, SUPPLIES & CONSUMER WELFARE DEPARTMENT

No.QC-7/16(Part) 7894 / Bhubaneswar, dated the 12-4-2016.

From

Shri 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 CMR to FCI on account of newly specified gunny bags.

- Ref: 1. Govt. of Odisha Letter No.QC-7/16(Pt.)-3145/SFSCW dated 09.02.2016
2. Govt. of Odisha Letter No.QC- 7/16(Pt.)-3641/SFSCW dated 17.02.2016
3. FCI Headquarters Letter No. Nil dated 24.02.2016
4. FCI Zonal Office(East), Kolkata letter No.QC7(7)/Gunny bags/2015 dated 24.02.2016

Sir,

Government of Odisha has intimated in this Department letter dated 9.2.2016 cited above regarding the problem faced by State Agencies to deliver custom milled rice (CMR) to FCI due to newly specified gunny bags of 580 gm 50 kg capacity with IS mark of IS16186:2014

2. Rice filled gunny bags were rejected by local FCI depots where gunny weighed less than 545.20 gm without taking into consideration observed moisture regain percentage.

3. It was requested that as the gunnies are provided to OSCSC through DGS & D after inspection by Q.C. staff of DGS & D. 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 criterion for rejecting the lots which results in huge loss on account of transportation, loading, unloading and repacking. Govt. of Odisha followed it up vide its letter dated 17-2.2016 with FCI Headquarters.

P.T.O.

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4. It was submitted therein that as it may take a while to put in adequate equipment by FCI to measure the moisture of the gunny bags as per BIS specifications in all its depots, so, as an interim measure, a further tolerance beyond the allowable limit of (-) 6% i.e. 545.20 gm may be allowed on tare weight of gunny bags. As mentioned in our first letter it is generally observed that tare weight of gunny reduced drastically within 2 to 3 days of opening of sealed bales containing the gunny bags due to moisture loss.

5. Further, it may be noted that Executive Director (East) in her letter dated 24.02.2016 (at Sl. No.4 under reference) has expressed the opinion that no useful purpose will be served in purchasing moisture meter in practical depot conditions as the gunnies have already absorbed rice moisture. It has been suggested therein that scaling down observed weight for rejection from 545.2 gms to 500 gms may serve the purpose.

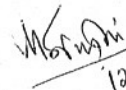
6. FCI Hqrs in its letter dated 24.2.2016 has informed that BIS specification should be applied while arriving at the average weight of gunnies received with CM rice. The provisions in the BIS Specification IS 9113: 2012, 8.5.2 has also been reiterated and Regional Manager, FCI (Odisha) has been advised to make necessary arrangements for provisioning of certified gunny moisture meters at all procuring centres.

7. It may take some time for putting in place the above arrangements. Meanwhile, complaints have been received from custom millers that FCI depots are turning them away for low weight of gunny bags. Delivery of CMR to FCI in Odisha stands as 5.60 Lakh MT as on 31.3.2016 during the current KMS and this is 12% less than the quantum of CMR delivered to FCI on the corresponding date during the previous KMS. Unless the delivery of surplus rice to FCI is effected quickly for the purpose of evacuation, Odisha would encounter huge problems in view of lack of adequate storage space with the State.

8. In view of the above, there is urgent need for revising the instruction of FCI Hqrs by way of additional tolerance for gunny bags.

It is therefore requested that till necessary technical arrangements are in place, FCI should receive CMR filled gunnies up to a tare weight of 500 gm for newly specified 580 gm gunny bags.

Yours faithfully,


12-4-16

Principal Secretary to Govt.