Inside story about Dumping of rice by Railway Authority, Cuttack, Odisha highlighted in Media in August, 2012 –exposed through RTI.

Dear friends

On 9. 8..12, almost all Newspaper highlighted news about dumping of around 600 quintal of rotten rice by Railway Authority, Cuttack at Jagatpur area which was taken away immediately by the poor slum-dwellers. After news was published, number of organizations protested and demanded an enquiry into it and lodged an FIR against Railway Authority in local police station. A Fact-Finding Team of Right to Food Campaign, Odisha had also visited the spot on 10.8.12 and tried to ascertain the facts which forced to Railway Authority to dump the rice. Much information could not be extracted from Railway Authority or Officers of Food Corporation of India. Many sensible Activists also raised the issues of callousness of Railway Authority and questioned how such a huge quantity of rice is dumped in a poor state like Odisha where lakhs of the people are starved and could not get two square meal per day.

To know the fact behind this incident, an RTI application was submitted to both Railway Authority and Food Corporation of India, Cuttack. The information supplied by both the office is as follows.

a. Food Corporation of India had booked one rake of PDS rice consisting of 41 wagons which was loaded on 9.4.2010 from Kesinga to Cuttack. However, out of 41 wagons, only 40 wagons were reached at Cuttack on 12.4.10 and one wagon containing 600 quintals of rice was reported missing.

b. Finding one Wagon of rice mission, FCI Continued to make series of official correspondence to Rail Authority demanding Rs. 11, 14, 178/- towards cost of rice.

c. However after one year and eight months, the said mission wagon was placed at RH, Cuttack by Railway on dated 29.12.2011 for delivery to FCI on 16.7.10.

d. FCI conducted Quality Assessment by Technical expert. It was found that rice unloaded from the wagon releases unpleasant/ubnoxious smell. The entire stock are infested with Khapra species. As regards to
quality of grains, the entire stocks are discoloured and affected with water. The damaged grains varied bag to bag. The cake formation was also noticed. The Technical expert recommended that the Stock was not fit for human consumption/issue under PDS on 29.12.11. FCI refused to receive the stock.

e. Railway Authority authorized Addl. Chief medical superintendent, Cuttack for quality assessment. He recommended that the rice consignment is not fit for human consumption.

f. Finding no response from Railway Authority, FCI again wrote a letter to Railway Authority on dated 13.3.12 to settle claim of Rs. 11, 14, 178/- as compensation.

g. On request of Railway Authority, Central Poultry Development Organisation, Bhubaneswar made quality assessment and submitted report that the rice is not suitable for consumption of animals and birds.

h. On 6.6.12, Railway Authority decided to dump the damaged rice (1206 bags) in a high-level meeting and informed the Station Manager, Cuttack to dump the rice by 12.6.12.

i. Then, rice was dumped at Jagatpur area on 8.8.12.

j. On 7.8.12, FCI has again written a letter to Railway Authority to settle claim of Rs. 4,99,643/- as compensation immediately by withdrawing previous claim of Rs. 11, 14, 178/-.

k. FCI is yet to receive any compensation from Railway Authority yet.

Thanks

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