



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Release

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NHRC confirms the rice distributed by the WFP to be of substandard quality

The National Human Rights Commission has confirmed the rice made available by the UN World Food Program (WFP) and distributed by the Nepal Red Cross Society to the earthquake survivors to be of substandard quality. The monitoring team comprising the Commissioner duo Mohna Ansari and Govinda Sharma Paudyal have found the rice stored and Mahadevsthan based Samaj Sewa Bhavan to be of substandard quality.

The laboratory report of the **Food Technology and Quality Control Department of the Government of Nepal (GoN)** has, upon examining the sample of rice provided, confirmed that 'The particles of rice grain found do not meet the standard of quality compulsorily specified by the GoN.'

Section 3 of the Food Act-1966 has restricted the distribution of the quality less food. The rice stored at Mahadevsthan based Samaj Sewa Bhavan was found to be packed in plain white plastic in yellow sacks and produced by Thakur Agro Industries with brands Swastik and Suraj Chamal, as per the monitoring.

The monitoring conducted by the Commission has found that the manufacturing date 2015 was imprinted on the yellow sacks and fit for consumption within six months from the date of manufacture. About half the sack of rice mixed with black particles could be seen even with the naked eyes, the monitoring report unveils.

On being asked about the consumption of rice, the local residents said that the rice turned sour, bitter and tasteless with bad odour while cooking, so they mixed it with the fodder.

After eating the above rice, the children in the area suffered from diarrhoea and had to undergo the treatment. The Commission draws the attention of the government to drag to justice and punish those involved in distributing food of substandard quality that has direct connection with the health and life of the people.

Earlier in 2009, the Commission had recommended to the GoN to take necessary action against UN WFP upon confirming the rice made available in Jajarkot district was of substandard quality

Mohna Ansari
Commissioner and Spokesperson