



MINISTRY OF COOPERATION
Print Media Conversations
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English
Puja Das
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Quality Council to conduct sampling of Bharat rice, atta and pulses

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Puja Das
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NEW DELHI

Subsidized rice, wheat flour and pulses that account for a substantial portion of government spending will be checked randomly for quality and quantity to ensure there is no diversion or adulteration, a senior official said.

The checks, part of the government's track and trace plan, will be conducted by the Quality Council of India (QCI) at various points along the supply chain. The move aligns with the government's substantial expenditure on food subsidies,

pegged at ₹2.05 trillion for the coming financial year and ₹2.12 trillion in FY24, higher than the budgeted estimate of ₹1.97 trillion for the current year.

The subsidized food grains, meant for the poor, are supplied to states under the National Food Security Act, or NFSA, and other welfare schemes.

Mint last month reported that the government was planning to track and trace Bharat rice, *atta* and pulses for their quality in collaboration with QCI, a move aimed at nipping the practice of unscrupulous traders mixing grit with grain.

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"To ensure that public resources are being put to proper use, an agency such as QCI may be onboarded for third party validation."

The current mandate for third-party validation of Bharat *atta* and rice is to ensure correct prices, quality and seamless supply chain.

"After a long deliberation, it was decided that QCI will engage for random sampling of Bharat rice and *atta* at different nodes of the supply chain and seek feedback from end users about price

and quality until June 2024. The three agencies will share the required information, including details about their respective supply chain logistics, with QCI so that the third-party validation process may be operationalized at the earliest to ensure that there is no diversion."

QCI will have login access to the three agencies' data on millers and the amounts allocated to them, which can be used to ensure seamless last-mile supply of these subsidized products.

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Queries sent to the QCI, and the ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution remained unanswered at press time.



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