No grain moved, no rules broken: TGSCSCL on rice sale

Corporation says surplus rice auction was conducted openly on the GeM platform, fetching higher-than-reserve prices

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (TGSCSCL) on Wednesday made it clear that the sale of surplus coarse rice was a policy decision taken in the public interest and carried out with complete transparency through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) e-auction platform.

In a statement, the corporation stated that approximately 1.40 lakh metric tonnes of coarse rice became surplus after the State government decided to distribute fine rice to beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The decision to sell the stock was taken to prevent quality deterioration during prolonged storage, address warehouse shortages, and avoid additional maintenance costs.

According to the corporation, the auction process was conducted through open competition on the GeM platform, leaving no scope for nominations, preferential treatment, or secret agreements. Equal opportunity was provided to all eligible bidders across the country.

The Corporation said the auction fetched Rs 21,700 per tonne, higher than the reserve price of Rs 21,600 per tonne approved by the State Cabinet.

Importantly, it clarified that not a single grain of rice has been released from government warehouses so far. No release orders have been issued, and no stock has been moved. While successful bidders have completed agreement formalities and deposited security amounts, the process of document verification is still underway.

The corporation maintained that all pricing decisions, auction conditions, approvals, and procedures were implemented strictly in accordance with State Cabinet-approved policies, making the entire process legal, transparent, and fully compliant with audit requirements.

Polavaram body addresses TG's concern; to maintain water level at 41.14 metres

Harish Rao's representation prompts formal response from Polavaram Project Authority

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), under the Central Government, has formally responded to the representation submitted by BRSLP Deputy Leader T Harish Rao stating that they would be storing water at 41.15 metres during the first phase.

In an official communication, the PPA acknowledged the gravity of the concerns raised on behalf of the residents of Telangana and assured that the issues pertaining to backwater impacts are receiving top priority and due administrative attention. The PPA has responded to Harish Rao's letter regarding the critical need to protect upstream habitations in Telangana from the submergence and backwater effects of the ongoing Polavaram project.

Significantly, the PPA has reiterated the landmark assurance given during the inter-state meeting held on April 8, 2025. Presided over by the Chief Executive Officer of the PPA and attended by senior officials from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the meeting concluded with a clear assurance that all areas in Telangana likely to be affected up to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of the Polavaram project will either be fully protected through robust engineering safeguards or acquired in accordance with the applicable Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) provisions.

Furthermore, the authority stated that comprehensive scientific assessments, flood-mitigation strategies, and protective interventions would be thoroughly evaluated and implemented.

These measures were aimed at preventing any adverse impact on the lives, livelihoods, agricultural lands, and interests of the people residing in the Godavari basin region of Telangana.

The PPA also acknowledged and appreciated the persistent efforts made to bring the concerns of vulnerable communities to the attention of the authorities concerned.

Reacting to the communication, Harish Rao said that the response from the Polavaram Project Authority validates the long-standing concerns raised by Telangana regarding the safety of upstream villages and the potential backwater impacts of the project.

He noted that the formal assurance given by the Union Government's statutory authority is a significant step towards safeguarding the interests of the affected people.

Rao expressed hope that the assurances now placed on record by the PPA would be implemented in both letter and spirit. He urged the authority, the Central Government, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh to ensure the timely execution of all promised flood-mitigation, protection, rehabilitation, and resettlement measures so that no village, farmer, agricultural land, livelihood, or family in Telangana suffers due to the execution of the Polavaram Project.

Azharuddin inspects Old City Ashoor Khanas ahead of Moharram

- **Four-day food distribution planned**
- **Officials told to remain on alert round-the-clock**

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin inspects historic Ashoor Khanas in Hyderabad's Old City on Wednesday, reviewing development works and arrangements for the upcoming Moharram observance of the Shia community

MINISTER for Minority Welfare Mohammed Azharuddin on Wednesday stated that in view of Moharram, the government has arranged four days of food distribution for devotees participating in the religious events. The minister instructed the officials to remain available round-the-clock and respond promptly to any issues that may arise during the observances.

On Wednesday, Azharuddin conducted an extensive inspection of historic Ashoor Khanas in the Old City, reviewing ongoing development works and arrangements being made for the upcoming religious observances of the Shia community.

During the visit, the Minister offered Ziyarat at several prominent religious institutions, including Bibi-ka-Alam, Khidmat-e-Rasool, Azakhana-e-Tashreehat and Basdshahi Ashoor Khana.

He examined restoration and infrastructure works being undertaken at these heritage sites and instructed officials to ensure their timely completion while preserving their religious, historical and cultural significance.

The inspection focused on preparedness measures for the annual religious gatherings, with special emphasis on facilities for devotees and participants expected to attend in large numbers.

The Minister reviewed arrangements related to sanitation, drinking water, lighting, cooling systems and crowd management to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for worshippers.

Addressing the media, Azharuddin stated that the government views minority development as an integral component of the state's overall progress and is working to provide equal opportunities, improved facilities and social dignity to all minority communities.

Several public representatives and officials accompanied the Minister during the inspection, including TIMRIES Chairman Faheem Qureshi, AIMIM MLC Mirza Riyaz-ul-Hassan Effendi, AIMIM MLAs Jaffer Hussain Meraj, and Mir Zulfiqar Ali, officials from the Telangana Waqf Board, GHMC, Police Department and members of the Shia community.

Meanwhile, Azharuddin said that the elephant will arrive from Kozhikode, Kerala to carry the Bibi-Ka-Alam on the day of Ashura, 10 Moharram which falls on June 26. He said "By the next year, we shall have our own elephant for the Bibi-ka-Alam procession and other historic festivities in the city."

Ponnam, Adluri throw down corruption gauntlet to Harish

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

POLITICAL tensions intensified after senior BRS leader T Harish Rao alleged a Rs 2,000 crore scam in tenders related to Telangana residential schools. Responding strongly, Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Adluri Laxman Kumar refuted the allegations and challenged Harish Rao to prove the charges, stating that both Ministers were ready to resign if corruption was established.

Ponnam Prabhakar questioned the basis of the allegations, stating that the total value of procurement tenders across welfare departments itself does not amount to Rs 2,000 crore. He said making such serious accusations without evidence was inappropriate and could mislead the public.

The Minister defended the government's welfare initiatives, particularly those aimed at weaker sections, and said departments working for the upliftment of poor communities should not be targeted with baseless claims.

He alleged that such remarks reflected a negative attitude towards welfare programmes.

Ponnam said the government functions with transparency and is prepared to face any investigation if wrongdoing is proven. He warned that the people of Telangana would not accept attempts to create confusion through false allegations.

Recalling his political journey, the Minister said he, along with Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar and other leaders, had built their political careers through public service and grassroots work. He said their commitment towards weaker sections and social welfare was evident through their actions.

Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar also reiterated that they were ready to face consequences if any corruption charges against them were proven.

The exchange has added to the ongoing political debate between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS over allegations related to government tenders and welfare schemes.

Motorists navigate a badly damaged road while pedestrians struggle to walk safely on the TV9–Srinagar Colony stretch in Banjara Hills Photo: Adula Krishna

BEFORE

Motorists navigate the TV9–Srinagar Colony stretch in Banjara Hills alongside a dug-up section of road, highlighting the traffic bottlenecks and commuter inconvenience caused by ongoing infrastructure works

AFTER

Following the publication of this photograph in The Hans India, the damaged TV9–Srinagar Colony stretch in Banjara Hills was repaired by the authorities, bringing relief to commuters and improving traffic movement in the area.

Photos: Adula Krishna

Food Safety teams crack whip on popular food outlets in city

Task force uncovers cockroach infestations, rotten produce, and unlabelled items during comprehensive inspections across regional confectionery facilities and restaurants

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Hyderabad Food Safety Task Force teams conducted surprise inspections at food manufacturing units, discovering unhygienic production and multiple violations of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India norms.

On June 16, the H-FAST team raided ACME Products, a confectionery manufacturing unit at Alija Kotla in Yakutpura that produces jellies, marshmallows, and jujubes under unhygienic conditions. The teams also raided Dairy Bell, an ice cream manufacturing unit at Aman Nagar.

Led by Sub-Inspector P Krishnaiah, the inspection reported poor sanitary conditions and safety violations, handing the case over to Food Safety Officer B Rakesh Kumar of GHMC Circle-28 for action under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

In a separate operation, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation food safety officials inspected a Subway outlet in Kondapur, detecting several lapses in food handling and hygiene practices.

The inspection team found rotten lettuce stored in a chiller and unlabelled cut vegetables, including onions, tomatoes, and lettuce, that had exceeded their declared use-by dates.

Incoming raw vegetables lacked adequate procurement checks. The food preparation area was littered with waste, flies were observed, and poorly maintained washing areas posed contamination risks. The restaurant failed to produce mandatory medical fitness certificates for handlers, food testing reports, and water analysis reports, whilst staff lacked safe handling awareness. The CMC also raided La Pino'z Pizza in Jubilee Hills, uncovering heavy cockroach infestation, expired spice mixes, expired flavoured syrups, and expired bread items.

Inspectors found unlabelled, improperly stored food items, microbial infestation in a freezer under maintenance, chicken stored without proper wrapping, and lizard droppings near the food storage area.

Furthermore, vegetarian and non-vegetarian items were stored inside the same freezer. Authorities stated that strict action would be initiated against establishments found violating food safety regulations.

Food Safety Task Force personnel examine food processing facilities during surprise raids in Hyderabad, identifying unhygienic practices and regulatory violations