

1.14 lakh bags of hoarded paddy, rice seized

NEWS / CITY NEWS / CHANDIGARH NEWS / 1.14 LAKH BAGS OF HOARDED PADDY, RICE SEIZED
TNN | Updated: Sep 30, 2018, 11:09 IST



Picture used for representational purpose only

CHANDIGARH: In its ongoing raids, the Punjab food and civil supplies department has seized around 1.14 lakh bags of illegally hoarded rice within three days.

Bharat Bhushan Ashu, food and civil supplies minister, said that his department is carrying out raids to check bogus billing by rice mills, which is rampant across the state. Ashu said in

the second round of raids in the rice mills falling in Ferozepur and Jalalabad constituencies conducted on Saturday, the raiding teams had unearthed 23,500 bags of rice hoarded in two mills of the area.

Earlier on Thursday, a total of 91,000 bags of illegally hoarded rice were unearthed by the department in four rice mills of Ferozepur and arrested the mill owners. These mills included Mahalaxmi Rice Mills, Cereal Food Exports, Ferozepur Food Exports and Shree Sham Ji Industries, Barnala. On Saturday, raids were conducted at the Tata Rice Mill in Zira, where 15,000 bags of grade-A paddy, 7,000 bags of rice weighing 35 kg each and 8,500 bags weighing 50 kg each of last year's grade-A rice were found illegally stored in the mill. It was found that the owner did not possess the requisite documents to reveal sources of the procured paddy and rice.

Similarly, on a tip-off, a total of 8,000 bags of rice illegally stored in SV Plywood Factory, Jalalabad, were found. The department is yet to verify the details of the owner. Also, after a raid was conducted at the Golden Rice Mill in Zira, the miller locked the mill premises and fled. The department officials said that in another raid at Anil Narula Rice Mills in Zira, the owner and his staff were non-cooperative and misbehaved and manhandled the raiding team officials. Thereafter, the owner locked the mill premises and fled. The spokesperson said that the department was keeping a strict vigil over the mills since officials had spotted huge stacks of paddy and rice in these.

The minister said that rice mill owners were in the habit of illegal hoarding of previous years' rice procured on the black market at cheaper price with the intent to circulate the same in the ensuing kharif marketing season.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/1-14-lakh-bags-of-hoarded-paddy-rice-seized/articleshow/66011341.cms>