

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:809
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
SAFETY OF FCI FOODGRAINS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats in the country during the last one year;
- (b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item published in Hindi daily `Rashtriya Sahara` dated May 21, 2003 under the caption `Chuhon se mukti dilaygi Canadai Vigyaniko ki Salah`;
- (c) if so, the details of the advice of Canadian scientists;
- (d) whether the Food Corporation of India will make use of this advice to save foodgrains from rats;
- (e) if so, by when; and
- (f) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to save the foodgrains from rats?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S. L. MAHARIA)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f): The Food Corporation of India (FCI) does not maintain a separate record with regard to foodgrains destroyed by rats during storage. However, the Govt. of Mizoram has reported that quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats in the State of Mizoram in order of 16,380 MT i.e. 15% of the total production from the field as well as during storage.

Canadian scientists have visited State of Mizoram during the month of November, 2002. They have advised to use new second generation anticoagulants namely, difethiolone, difenacoum and brodifacoum. These baits are acute, single dose, anti-coagulants giving mortality within 30 hours.

The FCI undertakes storage of foodgrains on scientific lines following the prescribed code of storage practices. Necessary pest control operations through prophylactic and curative treatment including rodent control measures like poison baiting and burrow fumigation are undertaken as and when necessary. The following steps have been taken to save foodgrains from rats:

- (i) FCI has constructed its own godowns built on scientific lines which are rodent and damp-proof for storage of foodgrains.
- (ii) Rodent control measures are taken regularly in order to keep the stocks in rodent-free condition.
- (iii) Rat cages/traps and poison baits of zinc phosphide/anti-coagulants are being used in godowns to kill rodents.
- (iv) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for periodical inspection and to check menace of rodents.