

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3524
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
LOSS DUE TO LACK OF STORAGE SPACE
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether huge quantity of foodgrains are putrefying in the absence of proper and secure storage facilities;
- (b) if so, the quantum and value of foodgrains destroyed during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) system is the chief cause of such destruction of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): There is adequate storage facility available with the FCI for stocking of foodgrains. However, there are a number of biotic and abiotic factors responsible for downslide in quality of foodgrains during storage even in covered godowns. As on 1st April, 2006, a quantity of 49,372 MT of damaged foodgrains was lying in FCI godowns which constitute 0.30% of the total foodgrain stocks held the FCI on the said date.

(b): During the years 2002-03 to 2004-05, there was accrual of a total quantity of 3.08 lakh MT of damaged foodgrains valued at Rs.197.56 crores in the godowns of the FCI. State-wise and year-wise details are in the Statement at Annexure.

(c)&(d): Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage is provided only in the extremely unavoidable circumstances i.e. when no covered godown is available, particularly in Punjab and Haryana in which bulk of foodgrains is procured, for a temporary period till the stocks are moved out to the consuming States or the cover godown become available. Government has given detailed policy guidelines to the FCI and the Governments of Punjab and Haryana, for proper storage and timely disposal of wheat stocks procured in Punjab and Haryana, which include procurement according to uniform specifications, proper storage and CAP storage only in extremely unavoidable circumstances with all precautions, carrying out of the required prophylactic and curative treatment to the stocks and timely moving out/disposal of stocks.