

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5375

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Dubey Shri Nishikant ; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ; Kaswan Shri Ram Singh; Lingam Shri P.; Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ; Mandal Shri Mangani Lal; Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao; Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh; Pandey Saroj; Paswan Shri Kamlesh ; Ramkishun Shri ; Singh Shri Jagada Nand; Tanwar Shri Ashok; Viswanathan Shri P.; Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether taking a serious note of the damage to foodgrains during the last one year, the Supreme Court had directed the Union Government to create more storage space and ensure safe and proper storage of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken thereon indicating the financial and physical targets set and the additional storage space created/ hired during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to create room for fresh arrival of foodgrains in view of the prospects of a bumper crop during the ensuing seasons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of the foodgrains still stored in the open alongwith the steps taken to bring all the foodgrains under covered storage?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): In view of reports of damages to Central Pool stocks of foodgrains in some godowns of FCI and State agencies during last year, Hon'ble Supreme Court suggested to Government to take some long term and short term measures. While creation of adequate storage facilities was suggested for the long term, increase in quantum of food supply to BPL population and distribution of foodgrains to deserving population at very low cost or no cost was to be taken up in the short term.

In order to create additional covered storage space, Government has formulated a scheme to reduce dependence on CAP (Open Storage) by construction of covered godowns both in procurement as well as consumption areas through private entrepreneurs. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tons has been planned for 19 States under the Scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tons respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tons has already been completed. The physical target under the scheme is the total planned capacity of 152.97 lakh tons as stated above, but there is no financial involvement of the Government in the initial stage of creation of this storage capacity under Private Public Partnership mode.

In the 11th Five Year Plan an allocation of Rs. 154.82 crores has also been made to FCI for construction of storage godowns, which will also result in addition of another about 1.2 lakh tons of storage capacity. This Department has also prepared a proposal for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tons in the North Eastern States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) with a total allocation of Rs. 568.17 crores. The proposal of the Department has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 1.07.2011.

State-wise storage capacity with FCI as on 31.3.2009, 31.3.2010 and 15.7.2011 is at Annexures-I, II and III.

Apart from creation of additional covered storage capacity, FCI has hired capacity from CWC/SWCs/Government agencies/private parties to store the procured foodgrains. A new scheme under the name "Private Warehousing Scheme-2010" has also been floated by FCI on 30.11.2010 wherein General Managers of FCI in various regions have been delegated powers to hire private godowns with preservation, maintenance, security, etc at par with CWC/SWC godowns. The godowns under this scheme will be hired for a period of one year, in order to ensure storage space for fresh arrival of foodgrains in the procurement season.

No stock of foodgrains is lying in open without any protective cover in the custody of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. Due to shortage of covered storage capacity, wheat and paddy are also stored in cover and plinth (CAP) storage. CAP storage is built on scientific lines with raised concrete plinths of standard height and stacks are covered with low density polyethylene (LDPE) covers. Sometimes due to paucity of scientific (pucca) CAP with raised standard plinth, wheat and paddy are also stored on

unscientific (kutcha) plinths in CAP storage. However, stocks from such plinths are moved out giving them overriding priority.

Detail of foodgrains stored in CAP in FCI and State agencies as on 1.8.2011 is at Annexure-IV.