

[English]

**Improving storage system of foodgrains**

2081. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of foodgrains perishes due to non-adoption of scientific technique in storage by the Food Corporation of India ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the existing storage system and also to give more financial assistance for adoption of modern methods of storage of foodgrains ; and

(c) whether various State Agro-Industries Corporation including Tamil Nadu Agro-Industries Corporation have come forward to help the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some stocks of foodgrains get damaged during storage in covered godowns and CAP complexes, and during transportation and multiple handling, due to factors beyond human control, such as rains, floods, cyclones, etc.

The steps that are taken to improve the existing storage system further include:

- (1) Augmentation of the covered storage capacity and reducing CAP storage at large scale storage.
- (2) Adoption of strict Quality Control measures during procurement and storage by the Government agencies.
- (3) Development of codes of practices for scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains by the Indian Grain Storage Institute of the

Department of Food for use at farm level and popularization of the same through training, demonstrations and publicity in rural areas through a net work of Save Grain Campaign teams of the Department of Food in collaboration with the State Governments. The Central Warehousing Corporation also educate farmers in scientific storage techniques through its Farmers Extension Service Scheme.

- (4) Provision of a rebate of 12% on storage charges to the farmers and cooperatives by the Central Warehousing Corporation so as to encourage them to utilize modern storage facilities.

(c) No such offer has been received by this Ministry.

**Rural Integrated Digital Network**

2082. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2109 on 18th November, 1986 regarding Rural Integrated Digital Network and state :

(a) the names of the States in which not even a single district has been selected for the introduction of Rural Integrated Digital Network and the reasons therefor ;

(b) the criteria followed in selecting the 15 districts for the introduction of this network ;

(c) whether the network would be introduced in such a manner that at least one district in each State/Union Territory is covered by it initially ;

(d) the financial allocation earmarked for the introduction of this system in the Seventh Plan as a whole and for each year separately ; and