

**Foodgrains storage problem**

75. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN  
SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether entire storage space has been utilised and no scientific godown capacity is available and about five million tonnes of foodgrains were being stored under the cover and plinth;

(b) if so, the total capacity of the Central and the State Warehousing Corporations at present;

(c) whether the bumper crops last year and likely good crop this year had created a storage problem;

(d) if so, what immediate steps are being taken in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are actively considering to seek assistance from the World Bank for setting up the storages?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) The total capacity available with Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations (Owned, Hired and Plinths) is 23.98 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The steps taken include building up of additional storage space, optimum utilisation of the existing capacity, inviting offers from private parties for construction of godowns on guaranteed occupation, construction of buffer storage godowns with the assistance of the World Bank etc.

**Plans for Irrigation System**

76. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:  
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:  
SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement plans for a country-wide irrigation system;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plans, the outlay proposed; and

(c) the projected time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c). An integrated system of irrigation is considered necessary in view of deficient or unevenly distributed rainfall in the country. However, before investigations for such long-term scheme are taken up it is essential to first study, in depth, the position of surpluses and shortages in various basins, sub-basins and regions and determine possibilities for inter-basin and inter-regional transfer of waters taking into consideration the minimum needs of drought prone areas. Such a study is on hand by the Central Water Commission.

Such a countrywide studies and investigations are by their nature long-term. Only thereafter cost estimates could be assessed at.

**Support price of wheat**

77. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the support price of wheat at Rs. 110/- per quintal fixed for the current season has been welcomed by all sections of the people;

(b) the total subsidy that the Central Government have to pay at the increased price and its effect on the economy; and