

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:326

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

CLOSED GODOWNS

Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether some godowns owned by the Government agencies are not in working condition despite the country facing shortage of storage space and rotting of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor indicating the number of such godowns alongwith the capacity thereof;
- (c) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court has also made a pronouncement regarding rotting foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether any responsibilities have been fixed in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, area-wise and the action taken against those held responsible?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d) ,(e) & (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 326 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17TH AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING CLOSED GODOWNS

(a) & (b): All existing godowns of FCI are in storage worthy condition. However, 3.52 lakh tonnes of storage capacity in silos with FCI is not in use as per details given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 27-07-2010 in WP (Civil) No.196 of 2001; PUCL Vs. UOI and Others had directed that the Government may consider constructing adequate warehouses or food storage facilities on a long term basis. On a short term basis hiring warehouses and putting water proof tents can be considered. To bridge the storage gap, the Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs. Under the scheme the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring. A capacity of 149.4 lakh tonnes is to be created under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. The General Managers (Region) of FCI have been given full powers for hiring of private godowns for short term usage. However, wherever there is insufficient covered storage space, the wheat stocks are also stored in scientific Cover and Plinth (CAP).

(e) & (f): Recently, there have been reports of damage to foodgrains in godowns of FCI and State Agencies in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand due to rains and floods. Inspection of storage complexes have been carried out by the Central Govt. and FCI officials. Based on the reports of the inspection team for the damages at Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj depots in U.P., FCI has suspended 8 of its officers in Uttar Pradesh.