

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3271
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
ROTTEN FOODGRAINS
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has expressed concern that rice worth Rs. 450 crore have got rotten due to dampness in FCI godowns between 2003 to 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said loss is greater in Punjab as compared to Haryana;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the rotting of foodgrains in godowns;
- (f) whether reports/complaints in the recent past indicate that the loss of foodgrains have also been due to other reasons besides rotting in the godowns;
- (g) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and
- (h) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its Report No. 9 of 2009-10 at para No. 6.1.2, had observed that storage loss in rice observed during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 in Punjab Region as compared to Haryana Region was in excess of 3.23 Lakh MT valued at Rs. 450.65 crore. The year-wise details of storage loss in respect of Punjab and Haryana Region from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is at Annexure.

(e): The following steps/measures are taken to ensure safe storage of foodgrains to avoid damages to the foodgrains :-

(i) Foodgrains are stored only in scientifically built godowns.

(ii) The CAP stocks are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. The CAP stocks are properly covered with polythene covers and tied with nylon ropes. The CAP stocks are regularly aerated to bring down the moisture content.

(iii) A number of preventive steps are carried out for the safe storage of foodgrains like regular prophylactic and curative measures for the control of insects and pests. Fumigation is also carried out at regular intervals.

(iv) The principle of "First in First Out" is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid long storage of foodgrains in the godowns.

(f): Yes, Madam. There is also loss of foodgrains, during storage as well as in transit. While carrying out operational activities by FCI on a large scale, some losses in foodgrains are inevitable. The reasons for storage and transit losses are due to:-

Storage Losses

- i) Loss of moisture ii) Prolonged storage iii) Bleeding/spillage of grain from gunny bags iv) Bird/Rodent trouble in storage complexes v) Sliding down/deterioration of stocks vi) Fungus / infestation of stocks

Transit Losses

- (i) Driage of moisture during long transit
- (ii) Multiple handling
- (iii) Use of hooks during handling
- (iv) Weak texture of gunnies and bursting of bags
- (v) Spillage through wagon holes /cleavages and flap doors
- (vi) Loss at transshipment points

(vii) Different modes of weighment.

(g)&(h): Each and every case of storage and transit loss is investigated. On the basis of the investigations responsibility is fixed and action is taken against the officials, if found guilty. During the year 2010-11, the number of officers/officials proceeded against for transit/storage loss of foodgrains were 1635.