

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2245

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010

DAMAGED FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether there are reports of damage to foodgrains held by the Government agencies and the Supreme Court has also taken due cognisance of the fact;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate some stringent regulations/laws to check such loss of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details 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): Yes, Madam.

(b): Reports have been received about damage to foodgrain stocks in some depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. Details of Region-wise commodity wise stock position of damaged/ non-issuable foodgrains with FCI and State agencies as on 01.11.2010 is annexed. In view of these reports, Hon'ble Supreme Court also expressed concern and suggested to Government to take some long term and short term measures.

(c) and (d): There are standing instructions/ guidelines for safe preservation of foodgrains by FCI and other concerned agencies. Steps to be taken by FCI and State agencies for this purpose are as under:

(i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.

(ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.

(iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor.

(iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.

(v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.

(vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.

(vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

(viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.

(ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

(x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.

Besides, Government has taken up construction of additional scientific covered storage capacity of 1.388 lakh tons during 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) with Food Corporation of India and of 150 lakh tons through private sector participation.