

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:136

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

DAMAGE TO FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether damage to foodgrains stored in the open and held in various godowns have been reported in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the number of such godowns alongwith the quantity damaged therein and the reasons therefor, State-wise and agency-wise during each of the last two years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to distribute the surplus stocks to deserving population at low cost;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken to check such damages in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): As reported by Food Corporation of India (FCI), 8881 tons of damaged/ non- issuable foodgrains were available in FCI as on 31.1.2011. Statement showing region-wise details of number of depots and accrual of damaged/ non-issuable foodgrains in FCI godowns as on 31.1.2011 is at Annex-I. Statement showing region-wise details of stocks accrued as damaged/ non-issuable during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 in FCI is at Annex-II.

Information in respect of damaged/ non-issuable foodgrains accrued in the stocks held by Punjab and Haryana State Government agencies is being collected.

(c) and (d): In view of surplus stocks of foodgrains presently available in the Central Pool, Government has allocated to States and Union Territories additional quantity of 25 lakh tons of wheat and rice in September, 2010 and January, 2011 each time on ad hoc basis at BPL prices.

(e): State Governments and Food Corporation of India have been instructed from time to time to take required measures for proper and safe storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in CAP storage. Recently such instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI, for steps to be taken for proper preservation and safe storage of central pool stocks of foodgrains have been reiterated on 24th January, 2011 for:

- (i) Scentisation of all field functionaries;
- (ii) Carrying out inspection of stocks of foodgrains by senior officers;
- (iii) Monitoring of observance of these steps on regular basis; and
- (iv) For taking strict disciplinary action against delinquents.

The following precautionary and remedial steps are taken/to be taken by F.C.I. and State Government agencies to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (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 damage during transit.