

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1112

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011

ROTTING FOODGRAINS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay ;Jindal Shri Naveen;Pandey Saroj;Viswanathan Shri P.;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether a huge quantity of foodgrains were damaged due to lack of proper storage, poor maintenance and pest and rodent infestation during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether any responsibilities have been fixed in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such officials/persons held responsible;
- (e) the mechanism in place to monitor and ensure safe storage and maintenance of foodgrains; and
- (f) the steps taken and funds provided to develop adequate and modern hi-tech storage facility for safe storage of foodgrains

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Some quantities of foodgrains stored in godowns of FCI accrued as damaged/ non-issuable during the last three years and available as on 1.2.2011 are given in Annex. FCI has also reported that 59174 tons and 23863 tons of damaged wheat stocks were available on 1.2.2011 with agencies of Punjab and Haryana Governments, respectively. However, updated details on such stocks of wheat with agencies of Punjab and Haryana in previous years are being collected.

(c) & (d) FCI has reported that for damages of foodgrains in FCI godowns, action has been taken against delinquent officials during last three years and current year as under;

Year No. of officials proceeded
against for damage of foodgrains

2007-08 31

2008-09 50

2009-10 28

2010-11 20

Total 129

(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) Sensitisation 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.
- (f) Govt. has formulated a scheme for construction of godowns of 150 lakh tons capacity through Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations(SWCs) and private entrepreneurs. Out of this, CWC & SWC are constructing 5.31 and 10.64 lakh tons capacity respectively under the scheme. In addition, during the 11th Five Year Plan, Rs.149 crores have been provided for construction of storage godowns of 1.88 lakh tons capacity by FCI and State Governments.

An expert committee has been constituted under chairmanship of Dr. R.T.Patil, Director CIPHET, Ludhiana to redraw the specifications of food storage godowns.