

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1944

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

STORAGE CAPACITY

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.;Rani Killi Krupa;Vundavalli Shri Aruna Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is a huge shortage of foodgrains storage capacity in the States in the wake of bumper wheat and pulse crop during the current year;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to create additional storage space;
- (c) the present conventional and hi-tech modern storage in the States, State-wise;
- (d) whether the EGoM on Food Security has directed the Government to augment storage capacity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The overall storage capacity available with FCI both owned and hired from different agencies including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) is 312.44 lakh MTs as on 15.02.2011.

To substantially reduce CAP storage capacity, the Government has formulated a Guarantee Scheme for construction of godowns for FCI as well as for the States undertaking Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains, through private entrepreneurs and CWC and SWCs. For the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four month's requirement of Public Distribution System (PDS) and other Welfare Schemes in a State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock levels in the last three years are considered to decide the storage capacity required. The additional storage capacity required State-wise is at Annexure-I. The Government has given approval for construction of about 150 lakh tonnes of additional covered capacity in 19 States of the country under the Guarantee scheme. Out of this tenders have already been finalized for 16.06 lakh tonnes so far for creation of capacity by the private entrepreneurs. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) are also constructing 5.31 and 10.64 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme. Further, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 149 crores for construction of storage godowns by FCI and the State Governments to which funds are released as grants-in-aid. This is likely to result in the construction of about 1.88 lakh tonnes of storage capacity. The General Managers (Region) of FCI have also been given full powers for hiring of private godowns for short term usage.

(c): The details of State-wise capacity (owned/hired/covered/CAP) available with FCI as on 15.02.2011 is given at Annexure-II. The details of capacities in silos created at various centers under Built-Own-Operate (BOO) is given in Annexure-III.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. The EGOM has directed to expeditiously take up construction of storage capacities under the Guarantee Scheme of FCI. The Government 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 to the private entrepreneurs for assured hiring.