

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:21

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

STORAGE FACILITY

Mani Shri Jose K.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether foodgrains were damaged due to open storage and shortage of safe storage space during the recent harvest season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the available storage space, quantum of foodgrains procured and quantum damaged due to poor storage during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create additional storage space and liquidate stocks by allowing export and making additional allocation under the Public Distribution System; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including establishing an expenditure study panel for building sufficient foodgrain storage?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 21 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): No Madam. No stocks of foodgrains got damaged during the recent harvest season in open storage and due to shortage of safe storage space.

(b): The total storage capacity with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in 2008-09 as on 31.03.2009 was 252.79 lakh tons, in 2009-10 as on 31.03.2010 it was 288.36 lakh tons where as in 2010-11 as on 31.03.2011 it was 316.10 lakh tons. The State-wise details are in Annexures 1A, 1B and 1C. However, the total storage capacity has increased to 332.50 lakh tons as on 30.06.2011 with a capacity utilization of 91%. The details of quantum of foodgrains procured State-wise during last three years and current year for rice and wheat are given at Annexure-II-A and II-B respectively. The details of region-wise stock accrued as non-issuable (damaged) for the last 3 years is given at Annexure-III.

(c) & (d): In order to create additional storage space, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of godowns through private entrepreneurs under Private Public Partnership mode with a view to reduce dependence on CAP (Open Storage) by construction of covered godowns both in procurement as well as consumption areas through private entrepreneurs. The Department has not set up any "expenditure study panel" for building foodgrain storage, however, assessment of "additional storage needs" under the scheme is based on the overall procurement/consumption and the storage space already available. For the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four months requirement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes in the State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock level in the last three years is considered for deciding the storage capacity required. Under the scheme, Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of 10 years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tons is to be created in 19 States under the Scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this, so far tenders have been finalised for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tons by private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tons respectively under the scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tons have already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

The Government is not proposing any commercial exports of foodgrains from Central Pool stocks. However, exports on diplomatic grounds have been allowed from the Central Pool as under:

(Quantity in tons)

Country	Rice	Wheat
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Bangladesh	3,00,000	2,00,000
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Nepal - 50,000

Afghanistan - 2,50,000

However, the Government has recently allowed export of 10 lakh tons of non-basmati rice on private account. Also for Maldives, on diplomatic consideration, another 36521 tons of non-basmati rice was allowed on private account.

Besides allocating a quantity of 488.71 lakh tons of foodgrains (which includes 50 lakh tons additional APL allocation) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the current year 2011-12, an adhoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat has been made to States/UTs in May 2011 at BPL issue prices for distribution to BPL families upto March 2012. About 1 lakh tons of foodgrains have been released so far for calamity relief purposes. Further, in pursuance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction, in its order dated 14.05.2011 to allocate additional quantity of foodgrains to the 150 poorest districts in the country for distribution to extremely poor and vulnerable sections of the society, the Government has allocated 2,57,336.67 tons of foodgrains at BPL/AAY issue prices for three months for poor families identified in 45 districts of 8 States as per recommendation of Central Vigilance Committee on PDS set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.