

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
LOSS OF FOODGRAINS
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

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

- (a) whether there are any norms for permissible limits of foodgrains getting damaged during storage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns where such losses were more than the prescribed limits during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the special measures being considered by the Government to minimise such losses?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. No norms have been fixed for permissible limits of foodgrains getting damaged during storage.

(c): 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 6. 7. 2011.

The following precautionary and remedial steps are mandated to be followed 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.