

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4411
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
ASSISTANCE FOR GODOWNS
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the entitlement, allocation and utilisation of rice and wheat under the Public Distribution System during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether some of the States are facing difficulties in proper and safe storage of foodgrains due to paucity of storage facilities;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal to assist the State Governments in the construction of godowns including through private sector participation and to implement the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the new godowns are likely to be constructed?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Government allocates foodgrains to States & Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country and the State-wise number of accepted BPL & AAY families. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by the States/UTs. The APL allocations at present range between 15 and 35 kg per family per month in different States. In addition to the normal TPDS allocations, Government has made Special adhoc additional allocations of foodgrains for BPL & APL families during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12. The State-wise details of the allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat) during last three years and current year are as per Annex- I, II & III.

Due to the increased procurement of rice and wheat during the last three years and the current year and the consequent surplus stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool have resulted in covered storage gap. To reduce storage in Covered and Plinth (CAP), Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) to augment storage capacity. Consequent to assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme based on overall procurement/consumption and the storage needs of procuring/consuming areas and criteria laid down in the scheme, State-wise capacity requirement and locations have been identified.

Under the scheme, capacity of about 152.97 lakh tons is to be created in 19 States through private entrepreneurs and CWC and SWCs. Out of this, tenders have been finalized 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 has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. In the 11th Five Year Plan, an allocation of 154.82 crore has been made to Food Corporation of India for construction of storage godowns. This is likely to result in the construction of about 1.2 lakh tons capacity. This Department has also prepared a proposal for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tons in the North Eastern States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) with a total allocation of 568.17 crores. The proposal of the Department has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 1.07.2011. To tide over the problem of shortage of storage place, FCI hires storage place from CWC/SWCs/Government agencies and private parties, etc. The National Commission on Farmers set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S Swaminathan has not made any direct suggestions regarding storage requirements in its reports.