

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4483
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
STORAGE OF WHEAT
Argal Shri Ashok

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

- (a) the measures taken for safe and proper storage of wheat during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government provides any subsidy for construction of godowns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any special subsidy is provided to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): For safe and proper storage of foodgrains including wheat in covered and CAP storage to avoid damages, instructions have been issued to State Governments and Food Corporation of India (FCI) time and again. Recently these instructions were reiterated vide Department's letter dated 6.7.2011. These measures include continuous monitoring of quality of foodgrains during procurement, storage and distribution, to follow code of practices for safe storage in covered and CAP storage, to take all precautionary measures like prophylactic and curative treatments for insect pest control, regular periodic inspection of stocks to assess the quality.

(b), (c), (d) & (e): The Government gives grants in aid only to the State Governments of North East States, including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir for construction of storage godowns, to meet their storage requirement. For augmenting the covered storage capacity for storage of Central Pool stocks, the Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

The Government of India has also launched "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" with effect from 01.04.2001. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs etc and for prevention of distress sale by the farmers.

At present, subsidy @25% is being given to all categories of farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives and CWC/SWCs. All other categories of individual companies and corporations are being given subsidy @15% of the project cost. In case of NE States/hilly areas and SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and women farmers, subsidy is being given @ 33.33%. The scheme will continue during the whole period of XI Plan with a target of creating 90 lakh tons of storage capacity with a budget allocation of Rs.400 crores.