

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2486

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

STORAGE CAPACITY

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the requirement and the availability of godowns in various States;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the storage capacity required and available at present State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to involve private players to enhance the storage capacity in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total storage capacity proposed to be created during the current year including through private participation alongwith the action taken so far, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a),(b), (c),(d) &(e): Assessment of additional storage needs has been made by the Government 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 of 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. Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State wise capacity requirement and locations were identified. The storage capacity covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP), both owned and hired available with FCI as on 15.07.2011 is at Annexure-I.

To augment the covered storage capacity of foodgrains with the FCI and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. As per the guidelines of the scheme, the time period for completion of road fed godown is one year and for Railway Siding godown it is two years after acceptance of tenders. The details of storage capacity to be created and the progress State-wise is at Annexure-II.

This Department has also prepared a proposal for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) with a total allocation of Rs.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.