

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:382

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011

BUFFER STOCK MANAGEMENT

Das Shri Ram Sundar;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains stored as buffer stock in the country at present, grain-wise;
- (b) whether there have been substantial variations in the quantum of foodgrains in the buffer stock during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has evolved any perspective plan for buffer stock management for the next two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 382 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 30.08.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (e): The minimum stock of foodgrains required to be maintained under the buffer stock norms for foodgrains and the actual stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool for each quarter of the current year and last three years is at Annex. The increase in stock of rice and wheat over the buffer norms during the last three years and the current year is on account of higher procurement due to deeper penetration in procurement and increase in MSP, among others.

Considering the increased procurement of foodgrains, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, capacity of about 152.97 lakh tons is to be created in 19 States through private entrepreneurs and CWC and 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. To tide over the problem of shortage of storage space, FCI also hires storage space from CWC/SWCs/Government agencies and private parties, etc. 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 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.