

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:70

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

STORAGE CAPACITY

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

- (a) whether the foodgrain storage capacity presently available with the Government has been fully utilised all over the country leaving no scope for further storage of fresh arrival;
- (b) if so, the steps including export of rice taken/proposed to be taken to create storage space for the ensuing rabi crop; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of storage capacity likely to become available as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The Food Corporation of India has a storage capacity of 333 lakh MTs in Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) capacities both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 74% as on 01.10.2011. The storage capacity with state agencies as on 1.10.2011 was 295 lakh tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of 628 lakh tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains against the Central stock of 517 lakh tonnes as on 1.10.2011

Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under 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). Assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme is 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. 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 151 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 69 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.4 and 14.4 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 4 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

Government has recently allowed export of wheat and non-basmati rice under Open General Licence. Since the export will be from private account there will be no direct impact on Central Pool Stocks and hence on Government storage. However, due to the decision to export, some quantity of foodgrains which would have otherwise come to the Government Stocks would now be exported and would ease the storage problem to that extent.