

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:106

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

FOODGRAIN STORAGE

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) whether there are reports of damage to foodgrains due to shortage of safe storage space, storage in the open at procurement points, delay in transportation and loading/unloading at godowns etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, indicating the quantum of foodgrains procured, total storage space available, quantum of foodgrains stored in the open and quantum damaged during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the targets fixed and achieved in creation of storage space during the said period, State wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to involve the private sector and also use of modern and scientific technology for storage Godowns;
- (e) if so, the details* thereof arcd the action taken thereon indicating the terms and conditions finalised for the purpose; and
- (f) the steps taken to utilise the available stocks within a stipulated time frame, maximise the utilisation of storage space and for safe and scientific storage of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.106 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) and (b) There are reports of some quantity of foodgrains accrued as non-issuable (damaged) due to various reasons. The foodgrains accrued as non-issuable (damaged) with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during 2010-11 was 6346 tons which is 0.014% of offtake of the stocks from the FCI godowns. Foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. In case of negligence of officials / officers, FCI takes disciplinary action against defaulters, wherever found guilty. As reported by FCI, a meagre quantity of foodgrains accrued as damaged at various railheads during loading and unloading of foodgrains during 2011 in following States:

Sl.No State/FCI Reg Quantity damaged Reasons

- 1 Uttar Pradesh 15 tons(Wheat) Affected due to rain during
Railhead Naini unloading in July 2011. Contractor
found negligent in handling and
transportation from railhead for
which recovery has been made
from him.
- 2 Rajasthan 11.31 tons (Wheat Affected due to rain during
Railhead Jalore. unloading in July 2011.
Contractor found negligent
in handling and transportation
from railhead for which recovery
has been made from him.
- 3 Gujarat 6 tons(Rice) Affected due to rain during

Railhead Siddhpur unloading in June 2011. Contractor found negligent in handling and transportation from railhead for which recovery has been made from him.

4 Bihar On salvaging bags Affected due to rains at railhead of dama grain have and remained unlifted for accr at Railhead, Sans considerable time for which on 20.07.2011 disciplinary action has been initiated against Area Manager, FCI, Saharsa,

Foodgrains are not stored in the open without any protective cover either at the procurement centres or in storage centres. Rice is always stored in covered godowns. Sometimes due to shortage of covered storage capacity, wheat and paddy are also stored in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. CAP storage is built on scientific lines with raised concrete plinths of standard height and stacks are covered with low density polyethylene (LDPE) covers.

Sometimes due to paucity of scientific (pucca) CAP with raised standard plinth, wheat is also stored on unscientific (kutcha) plinths in CAP storage. Wheat stocks from such plinths are moved out immediately giving them overriding priority.

Details of wheat, rice and coarse cereals procured during last three years and the current year, State-wise are at Annexure-I, II and III respectively. The State-wise capacity available with FCI in the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-IV, V, VI and VII. Quantity of foodgrains stored in CAP storage during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure -VIII. Details of region-wise foodgrain stock accrued as non-issuable (damaged) for the last three years and the current year, as reported by FCI are at Annexure-IX.

(c), (d) and (e): Due to increased levels of procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under 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 FCI would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of about 151 lakh tons is targeted 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 tons by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are to construct 5.4 and 14.4 lakh tons respectively under the scheme, out of which a capacity of about 4 lakh tons has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. State-wise details of storage capacity approved under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme and achievements as on 31.10.2011 are at Annexure-X.

Keeping in view the storage gap in North Eastern States, a special package plan to create 5,40,280 tons capacity with an estimated cost of Rs.568 crores has been approved. State-wise details of status of creation of capacity in North Eastern States as on 15.11.2011 is at Annexure-XI.

(f): Besides allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes, additional allocations have been made to the States/UTs during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)/Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Above Poverty Line (APL) families in view of stock available in the Central Pool and requests made by various States/Union Territories. Details of additional allocations in this regard are at Annexure-XII.

FCI has instructed field capacity and as a result capacity storage capacity available with season i.e. as on 30.06.2011 Prices (BICP) norms of 75% the last three years is for maximum utilization of storage utilization of 95% in respect of effective has been achieved during the peak the Bureau of Industrial Cost and capacity utilization during peak season in the last three years is given as under:

2009 2010 2011

May June May June May June

87% 88% 94% 93% 91% 95%

For safe and scientific storage of foodgrains in Covered and CAP storage, Ministry has issued instructions to all State Governments/UT Administration and Food Corporation of India from time to time to take required measures. Recently such instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI have been reiterated on 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 treatment for insect pest control, regular periodic inspection of stocks to assess the quality etc.