

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012
STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to redistribute the storage centres from producing States to consuming ones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering to have a dedicated freight corridor for smooth transportation of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No, Madam. There is no plan to redistribute the storage centres. However, 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 requirements 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. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of a storage capacity of 5.4 lakhs tonnes in the North Eastern States.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.