

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2229
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
GODOWNS IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has announced/launched a Centrally sponsored scheme to provide financial assistance for construction of godowns and cold storages in rural areas in private capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the assistance to be provided by the Government and the eligibility criteria under the proposed scheme;
- (c) the godowns to be hired and the rent to be paid for storage of foodgrains during the ensuing year; and
- (d) the other steps taken to protect the foodgrains from rotting?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' w.e.f. 01.04.2001 for creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit. Under the revised scheme w.e.f. 26/06/2008, subsidy @ 25% is being given to all categories of farmers, Agriculture graduates, cooperatives & CWC/ SWCs. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are being given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of NE States/hilly areas & SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and Women Farmers, subsidy shall be 33.33%. Further the scheme has been made more attractive by enhancement of maximum capacity to 30,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs. 3 crores for other than North Eastern States & for North Eastern States the maximum capacity is 25,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs. 3.333 crores.

(c): The FCI hires godowns, from the Central Warehousing Corporation(CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations(SWCs) which charge at the rate of Rs. 4.90 per quintal per month for storage and maintenance. This rate was finalized for the year 2008-09. Payment for subsequent years is also being made at this rate.

For Godowns hired from the private parties by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for storage of food grains, General Manager (Regions) have powers to pay rentals upto Rs. 4.16 per quintal per month. ED (Zones) have power upto Rs. 5.21 per quintal per month and if higher rates are received the proposals are then finalized by the FCI, Headquarters.

(d): Various steps are taken by FCI to prevent damage to foodgrains. Prophylactic and curative measures are carried out regularly for the control of insects/pests. Effective rodent control measures are also undertaken. Regular quality checks are conducted to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in storage. Adequate dunnage is provided for the foodgrain stocks stored in CAP. The dunnage material is cleaned and disinfected. To protect the CAP stocks from rain, sun etc. each stack is covered with a polythene cover. The polythene covers are tied with nylon ropes. Wheat stocks stored in CAP by the State Govts./Agencies are subjected to joint inspection on a regular basis by officers of FCI and the concerned State Govts./ Agencies. Stocks are generally issued on the principle of "First in First out"(FIFO).