

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5238

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

FOOD STOCKS MANAGEMENT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa; Anuragi Shri Ghansyam; Bajwa Shri Partap Singh; Bhujbal Shri Sameer; Biju Shri P. K.; Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh; Dhanaplan Shri K. P.; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil; Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya; Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad; Kataria Shri Lal Chand; Kishor Shri Kamal; Kodikunnil Shri Suresh; Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal; Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh; Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia; Patel Shri Bal Kumar; Ram Shri Purnmasi; Rao Shri Nama Nageswara; Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan; Singh Shri Rakesh; Singh Shri Sushil Kumar; Singh Shri Uday Pratap; Singh Shri Yashvir; Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.; Sugumar Shri K.; Venugopal Shri P.; Vishwanath Shri Adagur H; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether recent reports have indicated that the quantum of damaged foodgrains is likely to increase substantially during the ensuing season in view of increasing stocks, ensuing bumper rabi harvest, record procurement, storage in open or under Cover and Plinth (C&P) system and unscientific food storage and management system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the carryover stocks, estimated production and procurements, storage capacity available and likely to be created during the ensuing year and the foodgrains stocks presently stored in the open;
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestions to increase the allocation and encourage offtake under the Public Distribution System/Targetted Public Distribution System and other schemes for reducing the stocks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the other steps proposed to be taken to manage the food stocks;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to adopt modern innovative and scientific methods for storage/preservation and management of food stocks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that no such report has been received. However, in view of increasing stock position due to higher procurement under Minimum Support Price (MSP) and to reduce dependence on Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage, Government has taken steps to increase covered storage capacity for Central Pool stocks.

As per 3rd Advance Estimate of production released by the Agriculture Ministry, the production of wheat for the crop year 2011-12 is expected to be 902.3 lakh tons and the production of rice is expected to be 1034.1 lakh tons.

The stock position of Central Pool stocks as on 1.4.2012 is 199.52 lakh tons of wheat and 333.50 lakh tons of rice, while procurement of wheat is estimated to be 318 lakh tons in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13, rice procurement is estimated to be 353.15 lakh tons for the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2011-12.

The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the FCI, both owned and hired as well as the storage capacity with state agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains is 638 lakh tons against the central stock of 533.02 lakh tons as on 1.04.2012.

FCI has informed that 87.86 lakh tons of Central Pool stock of wheat was stored in CAP storage as on 1.4.2012. Foodgrains are not stored in the open without any protective cover. Sometimes due to shortage of covered storage capacity, wheat and paddy are also stored in (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.

To increase the storage facility available with FCI and to meet any increased storage requirements, a capacity of 151.96 lakh tons is to be created under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme in 19 States. A total of 28.17 lakh tons covered storage capacity has been completed under the PEG scheme and it is expected that further 52 lakh tons will be completed by March 2013.

(c) & (d): No specific suggestions to increase the allocation and encourage offtake for reducing the stocks have been received from any States/Union Territories (UTs). However, requests have been received from States/UTs for higher allocation of foodgrains on the basis of increase in population. Considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool, requests received from State Governments/UTs and to augment supply of foodgrains at cheaper rates to check open market prices, Government has been making additional allocation of foodgrain under TPDS from time to time in addition to the normal TPDS and other welfare scheme allocations. During the year 2011-12 Government released a total quantity of 615.26 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes which included in additional allocation of 123.69 lakh tons of foodgrains comprising of 50 lakh tons for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, 50 lakh tons for Above Poverty Line (APL) families and 23.69 lakh tons for the poorest and backward districts. Other welfare schemes allocation was 49.56 lakh tons. During the current year (2012-13) also, Government has released a quantity of 527.59 lakh tons of foodgrains till date which include additional allocation of 60 lakh tons for APL families and 28.09 lakh tons under other welfare schemes.

(e) & (f): FCI has informed that scientific methods for storage / preservation and management of food stocks are being employed by FCI. Foodgrains are stored in godowns using scientific code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains.

Government is taking all precautionary measures for safe and scientific storage of foodgrains to avoid rotting of foodgrains. State Governments and Food Corporation of India have been instructed from time to time to take required measures for proper and safe storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in CAP storage. Recently instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI, for steps to be taken for proper preservation and safe storage of central pool stocks of foodgrains have been reiterated on 19.12.2011 & 11.1.2012. 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.