

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:866

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

STORAGE CAPACITY

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

- (a) whether there are reports of foodgrains getting damaged due to lack of proper storage and foodgrains management including shortage of storage space, poor condition of godowns, excess procurement and stocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps, including action against negligent officers, taken in this regard indicating the requirement and availability of storage, quantum of foodgrains produced, procured and stocks held in covered and open storage and foodgrains damaged during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the storage capacity created including conversion of plinths into covered and scientific godowns during the said period;
- (d) the capacity proposed to be created during the ensuing years for proper storage of foodgrains along with the steps taken for involving the private sector therein; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken for liquidation of present stocks and proper storage and preservation of fresh stocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b) As per information received from Food Corporation of India (FCI) a quantity of 6702 tons, 6346 tons and 3338 tons of foodgrains got damaged/ became non-issuable in FCI during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively 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 in case of unscientific storage because of lack of storage space, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

Details of region-wise stocks of foodgrains accrued as damaged/ non-issuable in FCI during last three years and current year is at Annexure-I. Steps taken for safe and scientific storage of foodgrains to avoid damages are at Annexure-II. Foodgrains procured by the field functionaries are subjected to supervisory checks/inspections in FCI, to see and ensure that procured stocks are within prescribed specifications. As a result of such regular as well as surprise inspections in FCI, cases relating to procurement of Sub-standard/Damaged stocks were detected and deterrent action taken against the responsible officials. Disciplinary action taken by FCI against such officials during the last three and current years are as under:-

Year No. of officials proceeded
against for rotting /damage
of foodgrains

2009-10 28

2010-11 20

2011-12 59

2012-13 10

(upto June'12)

Total 117

The total storage capacity available with FCI (owned and hired) as on 31.7.2012 was 364.38 lakh tons. However, storage capacity available taking together FCI and State agencies is 705.73 lakh tons. The stock position of wheat and rice under Central Pool as on 1.7.2012 was 498.08 and 307.08 lakh tons respectively.

As per 4th Estimates of production released by Ministry of Agriculture, the production of wheat is estimated to be 939.03 lakh tons and rice 1043.22 lakh tons for the crop year 2011-12. Total procurement of wheat during RMS 2012-13 has been 381.48 lakh tons as on 2.8.2012 and 347.44 lakh tons of rice during KMS 2011-12 as on 9.8.2012.

As informed by FCI as on 1.7.2012, a quantity of 226.96 lakh tons of wheat was stored in covered godown and 263.72 lakh tons in Cover and Plinth (CAP). Rice is stored only in covered godowns. As on 1.7.2012 a quantity of 307.08 lakh tons of rice was available in central pool.

(c) & (d) During the last three years, i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12, a capacity of 25,425 tons including 9590 tons in NE region has been created. Besides a capacity of 29.19 lakh tons has also been added as on 30.7.2012 under PEG (Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee) scheme. However, no capacity has been created by conversion of plinths into covered and scientific storage.

To create additional storage capacity, the Government is already implementing a Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India gives a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring. A capacity of 181.08 lakh tons has been approved for construction of godowns at various locations in 19 states, out of which a capacity of 122.07 lakh tons has already been sanctioned/ allotted to Private Investors/Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) for construction. Out of this, 18.62 lakh tons storage capacity has already been created by the private sector for use of FCI as on 30.7.2012.

Under Plan Scheme for Storage Construction Program, creation of 5,74,230 tons including 5,34,230 tons in NE region with a financial outlay of Rs. 551.50 crores during 12th Five Year Plan i.e. 2012-17 has been planned by FCI.

(e) In view of record stocks of foodgrains under central pool and to liquidate the stocks, Government has allocated, in addition to normal TPDS allocations, about 60 lakh tons additional for APL category by raising the scale of allocation from 10 kg to 15 kg per APL family. Besides, 50 lakh tons to BPL families at BPL rates and about 15.80 lakh tons for the poorest districts in 16 States in May/ July 2012. A quantity of 28.93 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and 5.50 lakh tons have been allocated for calamity relief, festivals etc. Further a quantity of 20 lakh tons of wheat has been approved for export.

Further, in view of considerable stock of wheat stored in CAP (both scientific and unscientific), FCI has prepared action plan for evacuation of vulnerable wheat stocks lying in unscientific/ kutcha plinths in a time bound manner to avoid damage during rains etc. which is regularly monitored. Steps taken for safe & scientific storage and preservation of foodgrain including fresh stocks to avoid damage are at Annexure- II.