

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3869

ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012

FOODGRAINS DAMAGED AT RAILWAY STATIONS

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

- (a) whether nearly 1,200 tonnes of wheat was reportedly found dumped at the Vadodara Railway yard in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the negligent contractors;
- (c) whether complaints have been received regarding other such incidents of damage to foodgrains lying in open/unsafe storage at various Railway Stations/yards in various States including Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of foodgrains damaged at railway stations during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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 about 29646 bags (1452 tons) of wheat were reported rain affected without proper protection in open at Railhead Vadodara on 12.8.2012. Action has been initiated against the Handling and Transport (H&T) contractor for recovering the amount pertaining to the loss.

(c) & (d): Following 4 cases about damage to foodgrains at Railhead have been reported by FCI:

(i) Gujarat: A quantity of 117 bags (5.672 tons) of raw rice Grade-'A' got damaged due to rain at Railhead Sidhpur in Gujarat. The claim has been lodged with H&T contractor, FSD Palanpur for the damaged rice.

(ii) Rajasthan: Total 21.95 tons of wheat damaged at various Railheads due to negligence of H&T contractors. Details are as under:

Year	Quantity (Tons)	Railhead
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2009-10	0.745	Jodhpur
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2010-11	0.842	Bikaner
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2010-11	8.560	Udaipur
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2011-12	11.801	Jalore
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Total	21.948	
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Recovery has been made from H&T contractor.

(iii) Bihar: 7854 bags (393 tons) of rice got affected with rain water at Railhead Saharsa.

The then Area Manager, District Office Saharsa has been dismissed for supervisory and other lapses in the matter. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against two Ex-Manager (Depot) and two present Manager (Depot). A recovery of Rs.14,29,974/-

have been made from Transport Contractor.

(iv) Odisha: (a) One missing wagon containing 1200 bags of rice was placed by Railway authorities after a gap of 20 months at Railhead Cuttack on 29.12.2011 in fully damaged condition for which claim has been lodged for the loss with the Railways.

(v) Central Warehousing Corporation has reported, during 2011 at Central Warehouse, Jaipur Road (Odisha) 107.8 tons rice was affected at goods shed due to heavy rains for which CWC has issued notice to the H&T contractor for the recovery.

(e) Instructions have been issued to all field functionaries to keep a strict watch and ensure arrangement of sufficient tarpaulin/polythene covers by H&T Contractors while unloading of stock at railhead during raining season so that the stock kept at railway station are protected.

The handling and transport contractors have been advised to ensure the safety of stocks during handling, and ensure that no stock is damaged due to rain.