

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1760

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

STORAGE CAPACITY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Badal Harsimrat Kaur; Bhagat Shri Sudarshan; Biju Shri P. K.; Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Mandal Shri Mangani Lal; Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao; Patel Shri Devji; Ramasubbu Shri S.; Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa; Singh Shri Radha Mohan; Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram; Vijayan Shri A.K.S.; Vishwanath Shri Adagur H; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Union and the State Governments are faced with a challenge for storage of fresh foodgrain stocks as the present storage capacity is packed with the previous years' stocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present stocks, available capacity and the estimated procurement of foodgrains during the ensuing season along with the remedial steps taken En this regard;
- (c) whether any foreign country including Canada has shown Interest in augmenting the storage capacity in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken including assistance to the States for creation of storage capacity and liquidation of the present stocks?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): No, Madam. The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India was 374.55 lakh MTs as on 31.10.2012. The storage capacity both covered and CAP, available with the State agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains was 341.35 lakh MTs. Thus, a total of about 716 lakh MTs of storage capacity is available for storage of Central pool stock of foodgrains against a stock of 695.29 lakhs MTs as on 31.10.2012. The estimated rice procurement in the ongoing season of KMS 2012-13 is 401.31 lakhs MTs.

To augment the storage capacity in the country, due to the increased procurement of foodgrains, the Government has formulated the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of covered storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the PEG Scheme, FCI gives guarantee for the storage charges to the private investors for 10 years. A capacity of 181.08 lakh MTs has been approved for construction of godowns in 19 States under PEG Scheme which includes 20 lakh MTs of storage capacity for silos. Besides the PEG Scheme, there is a Plan scheme for creation of total additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh MTs in the North Eastern States through FCI under which during Xth Five Year Plan some other deficit States have also been covered. The FCI has also finalised a scheme for hiring of private godowns through open tenders for one year extendable for another one year, to take care of the short term hiring needs.

On release side, Government has taken a number of initiatives. It has allotted 50 lakh tonne of additional foodgrains to the States for BPL families during each of the last two years and also in the current year. During the year 2012-13, about 7.1 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have also been allocated to the States for drought relief, flood relief, festivals etc. Government of India has also allocated 49 lakh tonnes of foodgrains as on date during 2012-13 under Other Welfare Schemes of the Government.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and on the recommendations of the Wadhwa Committee, this Department has allocated 23.69 lakh MTs for the additional BPL and AAY families during 2011-12. Further during the year 2012-13, the Government allocated another 19.42 lakh MTs of foodgrains. In addition, a quantity of 100 lakh MTs of wheat and 5 lakh MTs of rice has been allotted for distribution under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) - retail and bulk in 2012-13.

During the visit of Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada to India in September, 2010, the Canadian side had shown interest in sharing its expertise in storage. However, no proposal for storage of foodgrains from Canada or any other foreign country has been firmed up.