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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1304 ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013 STORAGE GODOWNS

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

- (a) whether as per the reports of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, a large quantity of foodgrains in the country go waste due to lack of infrastructure, handling and food storage facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the storage capacity required, available and created along with the foodgrains produced/procured and damaged during the last one year;
- (d) the details of the action taken against officials/persons held responsible for such damages; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment storage capacity and check wastage/damage of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a),(b)&(c) No large scale loss of foodgrains has occurred in the central pool stocks of the Government. A total storage capacity of 718.00 lakh tons under Covered and Cover & Plinth (CAP) is available with FCI (376.19 lakh tons) and State agencies (341.35 lakh tons). The details of total production and procurement under Central Pool and damage of foodgrains are as follows:

(in lakh tons)

Production (crop Procurement (Marketing Damaged foodgrains year 2012-13) Season 2012-13) (2012-13)

wheat rice Total wheat rice Total wheat rice Total

922.99 1018.01 1941.00 381.48 232.61 614.09 0.009 0.05 0.014

As on 1.2.2013

- (d) During 2012-13 action has been taken against 15 officers/ officials of FCI, responsible for unsafe storage /damage to foodgrains.
- (e) To augment covered storage capacity "Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme (PEG)" has been implemented. Under the PEG Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, implemented by the FCI an additional capacity of 181.08 lakh tons including 20 lakh tons in silos under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode has been approved for construction of godowns at various locations through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations in 19 States. Further, additional capacities of 14.35 lakh tons for Uttar Pradesh and 2 lakh tons in silos have been sanctioned for West Bengal. Besides, this Department has also finalised a Plan scheme for creation of additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons in the North East (NE) States through FCI. Steps taken by Government to avoid damage of foodgrains are at Annexure.