

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4623
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
BUFFER STOCK
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains stored as buffer stock in the country at present, grain-wise;
- (b) whether there have been substantial variations in the quantum of foodgrains in the buffer stock during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has evolved any perspective plan for buffer stock management for the next two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The minimum stock of foodgrains required to be maintained under the buffer stock norms for foodgrains and the actual stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool for each quarter of the current year and last three years is at Annex. The increase in stock of rice and wheat over the buffer norms during the last three years on account of higher procurement is due to increased production of foodgrains, deeper penetration in procurement and increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) among others.

Considering the increased procurement of foodgrains Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme, a capacity of 197 lakh Metric Tons (MTs) as on 31.03.2013 has been approved for construction of godowns in 19 States out of which a capacity of 140.73 lakh MTs has been sanctioned for construction. A total capacity of 69.92 lakh MTs has been completed under the Scheme. For ensuring long term scientific storage, the Government has also approved construction of 20 lakh MTs of storage capacity in silos within the overall sanctioned capacity of the afore mentioned PEG Scheme.

Beside the PEG Scheme, the Government has finalized a Plan Scheme especially for the North East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh MTs through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), in the next 3 to 4 years. These capacities once created in the North Eastern (NE) region, would take care of the storage requirements of about 3 to 4 months.