

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:894
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
MAINTENANCE OF FOODGRAIN STOCKS
Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

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

- (a) the agencies responsible for the maintenance of foodgrain stocks stored in godowns across the country;
- (b) whether any mechanism is in place for regular inspection of the foodgrain stocks stored in the godowns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the procedure and the schedule of such inspections; and
- (d) the effective steps taken for safe and proper storage of foodgrains in the godowns?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and State Agencies are the main agencies responsible for maintenance of foodgrain stocks stored in their respective godowns across the country.

(b): Yes, Madam

(c): The Quality Control Officers of FCI, CWC, SWCs and State Agencies regularly inspect the foodgrain stocks stored in their respective godowns. These inspections are carried out on fortnightly, monthly and quarterly basis. Moisture content, physical quality of the foodgrains and presence of stored grain insect pests, if any, are checked and immediate remedial measures are taken wherever required. Besides, Quality Control Officers of the Quality Control Cells of the Government of India also carry out regular inspections of Food Storage Depots of FCI, CWC, SWCs and State Agencies to monitor the quality of stored foodgrains as well as maintenance and preservation of foodgrain stocks.

(d): The following effective steps are being taken for safe and proper storage of foodgrains in the godowns:

- (i) Godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials, such as, wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in the godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are taken.
- (vii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by the technical staff.
- (viii) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.