

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FOODGRAINS

Alagiri Shri S. ;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Beg Shri Mirza Mehboob;Choudhary Shri Harish;Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Karunakaran Shri P.;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Pandey Saroj;Rama Devi Smt. ;Saroj Shri Tufani;Sharma Shri Jagdish;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan;Singh Shri Jagada Nand;Tudu Shri Laxman;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) the details of safety standards laid for various items of foodgrains and the rules/ guidelines which regulate safety standards;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any guidelines/instructions regarding safe storage of foodgrains;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some States are facing an acute shortage of safe and scientific storage space for foodgrains and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken in this regard indicating the physical and financial targets fixed and achieved for creation of storage space during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Safety standards of foodgrains are laid down by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Regulation 2.4.6 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 prescribes the safety standards for various items of foodgrains. As per the regulation, foodgrains meant for human consumption shall be whole or broken kernels of cereals, millets and pulses. In addition to the standards to which foodgrains shall conform, they shall be free from Argemone- maxicana and Kesari in any form. They shall be free from added colouring matter. The foodgrains shall not contain any insecticide residues other than those specified with limits in Regulation 2.3.1 of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011.

(b) & (c): Yes Madam. Government has issued instructions regarding safe storage of foodgrains to Food Corporation of India and State agencies to avoid damage in Central Pool Stocks from time to time. The precautionary and remedial measures mandated to be followed by FCI and State Government agencies are at Annexure-I.

(d) No, Madam. The total storage capacity both Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with FCI and other Central and State agencies for storing Central Pool Stocks is 718 lakh tons and total foodgrains stocks as on 31.1.2013 is 662 lakh tons.

(e) To create additional Covered Scientific Storage capacity, the Government gives Grants-in-aid to North East (NE) States and the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for creation of their own storage capacity. In last three years and the current year, a total amount of Rs. 31.02 crore has been released towards creation of proposed storage capacity of about 50,000 tons. The Government has also finalised a Plan scheme especially for the North-East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The Government is also implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to augment the covered storage capacity through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation(CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations(SWCs). A capacity of about 197 lakh tons has been approved till 28.2.2013 for construction of godowns in 19 States, out of which a capacity of 141.46 lakh tons has been sanctioned for construction. The FCI guarantees to hire godowns constructed under this scheme for a period of ten years, thereby ensuring for the investors, a fair return on the investment. A capacity of 46.88 lakh tons has been completed as detailed at Annexure-II