

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
PARAMETER FOR FOODGRAINS STORAGE
Patle Kamla Devi

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

- (a) the details of the safety parameters for foodgrains along with the directives which regulate the said parameters;
- (b) the details of the directives relating to the safe storage of foodgrains;
- (c) whether some States including Chhattisgarh are facing shortage of godowns for safe storage of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Safety parameters/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): Government has issued instructions regarding safe storage of foodgrains to Food Corporation of India (FCI) 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

(c) & (d): The storage capacity requirement for central pool depends upon the procurement level, buffer stocking and PDS requirement of the Consuming States.

In Chhattisgarh Region, FCI has a total capacity of 9.66 lakh tons (Covered 9.65 lakh tons and Cover & Plinth (CAP) 0.01 lakh tons) as on 30.06.2013. Besides, State agencies in Chhattisgarh have a covered storage capacity of 13.21 lakh tons for storage of central pool stocks.

On all India basis, total storage capacity both Covered and CAP available with FCI and State agencies for storing central pool stocks is 746.07 lakh tons as on 30.6.2013. The State wise details are at Annexure-II.

To create additional Covered Scientific Storage Capacity, Government has formulated a scheme called Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of covered storage capacity through Private Entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Under PEG scheme, District wise storage gap was calculated in each State by the State Level Committees (SLCs) to meet their consumption/ procurement requirement.

The High Level Committee (HLC) of FCI has approved a total capacity of 203.76 lakh tons for construction of godowns at various locations in 19 States under the scheme. Out of this, tenders have been sanctioned for a capacity of 107.55 lakh tons to private investors and a capacity of 776 lakh tons and 30.07 lakh tons have been allotted to CWC and SWCs respectively (total capacity sanctioned/ allotted is 145.38 lakh tons) and out of this a capacity of 73.02 lakh tons has already been completed.

In Chhattisgarh region, initially a capacity of 2.22 lakh tons was approved under PEG Scheme. Considering it an emerging procuring State, an additional capacity of 3.206 lakh tons has been approved on 18.07.2012. Out of this total 5.426 lakh tons, 2, 47,350 tons capacities have been completed as on 30.06.2013.