

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
FOODGRAIN REQUIREMENT UNDER FOOD ACT
Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains required for implementation of the Food Security Act along with its availability in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has received suggestions from agriculture scientists to check wastage of food at various levels from production to consumption, and creation of state-of-the-art warehouses for ensuring food security and implementation of the Food Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) Based on the coverage and entitlement provided in the National Food Security Act, 2013, total annual foodgrains requirement is estimated at 614.3 lakh tons.

As per Fourth Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for 2012-13, released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, total production of rice and wheat is estimated at 1968.6 lakh tons. Total procurement of rice and wheat in the crop year 2012-13 has been 591.2 lakh tons and the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool, as on 1.11.2013, was 509.5 lakh tons.

(b) & (c) Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, chairman of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation had expressed his concern about the safety of wheat and rice stored in gunny bags in the States of Punjab and Haryana which may get exposed to rain, leading to infection due to high moisture content. A study of the quantitative harvest and post-harvest losses of major crops and livestock produce was carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 2005-07, which inter alia recommended development of infrastructure for handling and storage.

All precautionary measures are taken for safe and scientific storage of procured foodgrains. The Government is implementing a Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme for construction of 204 lakh tons of covered storage capacity in 19 States, which includes 20 lakh tons in the form of silos. Government is also implementing a Plan scheme for creation of additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons in the North Eastern States and 76,220 tons in other than North East Region.