

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3220

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

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

(a) whether the requirement of storage capacity in the country is likely to increase with the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of additional capacity required and the steps taken to achieve the same;

(b) whether the World Bank has sent any proposal for providing assistance in strengthening storage facilities in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to adopt the latest technology to modernise warehousing to improve storage and check damage/loss of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) No, madam. The requirement of storage capacity in the country is not likely to increase with the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The required storage capacity depends on both the quantum of procurement and the off-take under TPDS. The estimated allocation of foodgrains (Wheat+Rice) under NFSA shall be 61.2 million MT that is slightly higher than the current allocation level of 55.1 million MT. Thus, off-take will increase and this would give relief to the requirement of storage space.

Currently, storage capacity available with FCI and the State agencies put together is about 75.60 million MT, which is sufficient to take care of storage requirements under NFSA.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) FCI has undertaken a construction of silos to modernize warehousing. A capacity of 20 lakh MT silo capacity is proposed to be created in 10 states on PPP basis. These silos will be connected via rail network and handling of stocks at receiving and dispatching ends will be in bulk in form thereby minimizing storage and transit losses.

In addition, the following initiatives have been taken to upgrade the conventional storage capacity:

1. Use of mechanized conveyers for handling operations inside the godowns to have efficiency in operations.
2. Use of truss less roofing in new constructions which ensures no leakage as 'J' Hooks are not being used.
3. Use of turbo ventilators on the roof of godowns for better circulation of air inside the godown for maintaining the health of foodgrains.
4. Replacement of old/damaged AC sheets with profile sheets to provide leak-proof roofs.