

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3978  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS  
Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the inter-regional movement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been rising and is likely to rise further in view of the implementation of the Food Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its impact on the availability of storage space for fresh procurement, particularly in foodgrain producing States;
- (c) whether an inter-ministerial/interdepartmental committee has been formed to bring co-ordination for streamlining the movement of foodgrains by rail and road;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the activities undertaken by the said committee along with the success achieved therein;
- (e) whether in view of the problems being faced and the cost of transportation through rail and road, the Government has permitted the FCI to utilise sea route/inland waterways for its operation involving movement of foodgrains; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes Madam. Inter-regional movement of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India( FCI) has been rising over the years. Details are as under:-

Year    Inter- state foodgrain movement (in lakh tonnes)

2008-09    225.16

2009-10    275.83

2010-11    305.29

2011-12    327.77

2012-13    349.19

It is estimated that for the National Food Security Act (NFSA) implementation, against the allocation of 614.43 lakh tonnes, the inter-state foodgrain movement requirement will be 364.33 lakh tonnes, whereas, total inter-regional movement during 2012-13 was 349.19 lakh tonnes. Thus, as per present estimates implementation will require higher inter-state movement.

Increase in inter-state movement is expected to help foodgrain procuring states, as increased movement of foodgrains will lead to better evacuation and there by creation of more storage space in such states for fresh procurement.

(c)&(d) An Inter-Ministerial Coordination committee was constituted on 10.01.2013 comprising of representatives of Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Railways and Food Corporation of India ( FCI) to monitor movement of foodgrains. The committee meets periodically to discuss and sort out operational constraints faced in movement of foodgrains by rail.

Discussions at the Coordination committee meetings have resulted in:

# Increased supply of rakes by the Railways for inter-regional movement of stocks which in turn helped in ensuring availability of sufficient stocks at FCI depots for Targeted Public Distribution Scheme( TPDS)/ Other Welfare Schemes(OWS)

# Reduction in detention of rakes

# Reduction in demurrage charges

# Expeditious renovation at many FCI sidings like – JJP siding, Kolkata and Talkatora siding (Lucknow), Kanpur and Mayapuri siding, Delhi

# Expeditious settlement of pending Railway claims Opening of new siding at Dumka and Madhupur for FCI operations

(e) & (f) In view of increased foodgrain movement requirement, FCI has been exploring alternate modes of foodgrains for some time and so far FCI has undertaken following sea/riverine projects:

(i) Pilot project of movement of foodgrain conducted in Assam at the beginning of year 2013 in which 1377.86 tonnes was transported successfully through Brahmaputra Ex-Dibrugarh(Assam) to Dhemaji(Assam) & 2999.49 tonnes was transported Ex-Dibrugarh(Assam) to Passighat(Arunachal Pradesh).

(ii) On 01.02.2014 FCI has awarded a contract to move 20000 MT per month of rice from designated depots of Andhra Pradesh to designated depots of Kerala through sea/road route.