

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4118

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains procured by the Government agencies was destroyed due to storage in open and unhygienic condition;
- (b) if so, whether there are any guidelines/norms regarding the maximum period for which foodgrains can be stored under such conditions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether cases of violation of the said norms have been reported recently; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam. However, some quantities of foodgrains with FCI were damaged due to various reasons, such as, cyclones and floods, acceptance of below specifications stocks and movement to other regions. The details are given below:

Year Total quantity of damaged foodgrains (In lakh tons.)

2006-07	0.25
2007-08	0.34
2008-09	0.20
2009-10 (Upto Sept., '09)	0.03
Total	0.82

(b) and (c): There are no guidelines/norms about the maximum period for which foodgrains can be stored safely in the open. However, foodgrains can be stored for longer period by following the scientific code of practices for their storage.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): The following effective steps are being taken for safe and proper storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in open complexes:

(i) Godowns are constructed as per specifications.

(ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of practices for storage.

(iii) Adequate dunnage materials, such as, wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.

(iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns and Cover and Plinth (CAP) complexes.

(v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in the godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.

(vi) Rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are taken.

(vii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by the technical staff.

(viii) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns and open complexes.