

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:553

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015

STORAGE CAPACITY

Bhaleram Shri Dharambir;Chaudhary Shri C.R.

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

- (a) the production and procurement of foodgrains along with the total and covered storage capacity available with the Government across the country as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the said storage capacity is being utilised optimally, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the High Level Committee/task force on safe storage and creation of storage space has submitted its report, if so, the details thereof indicating the recommendations received and action taken thereon; and
- (d) whether the Government is examining the foodgrain storage models in other countries including China for improving the system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 553 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.05.2015 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): The production and procurement of foodgrains during current marketing season is enclosed at Annex-I. As on 31.03.2015, total storage capacity of 709.22 Lakh MT is available with FCI and State agencies (owned and hired) for storage of central pool stocks. State-wise details of covered storage among Food Corporation of India (FCI) & State agencies are at Annex-II.

(b): The utilization of covered storage capacity available with FCI, is 68 % during the month of March, 2015. Utilization of storage capacity is maximum during peak season of procurement for wheat & paddy/rice.

(c): Government had constituted a HLC to make recommendations on restructuring of FCI under the chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, has submitted its report on 21.01.2015. The major recommendations of HLC related to storage include outsourcing of stocking operations to various agencies including private warehouses, hiring of storage space on the basis of competitive bidding, conversion of existing conventional storages into silos with the help of private agencies, mechanisation of silos as well as conventional godowns, gradual phasing out of covered and plinth (CAP) storage and its replacement with silo bag technology and conventional godowns etc. Government is examining the recommendations made by committee and a decision to implement the acceptable recommendations of the Committee will be taken shortly.

(d): No, Madam. Government has initiated steps for improving the system in the country, taking specific requirements and domestic situation into account.