

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2508

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Loss of Foodgrains

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

(a) the details of the losses suffered by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years and the current year on account of damage and pilferage of foodgrains in transit and storage along with the reasons therefor and the corrective action taken thereon, State-wise;

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(b) whether the availability of storage space has kept pace with the increasing production and procurement of foodgrains particularly for the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps proposed in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has sought assistance from other countries and international organisations for expansion and modernisation of godowns, if so, the details thereof and the response received thereon; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to put in place an online system to automate the operations at FCI depots in order to minimise losses, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a): Some quantity of foodgrains get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest's attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, exposure to rains, floods etc.

State-wise quantity of the foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable during transit and storage for the last three years & current year in FCI is at Annex-I. In order to preserve the quality of procured foodgrains and to avoid damage, instructions with precautionary and remedial steps to be followed by FCI and State agencies have been issued.

State-wise number of cases of pilferage/theft and quantity of foodgrains lost during last three years and current year in FCI are at Annex-II. Steps taken to curb/detect the theft/pilferage of foodgrain in FCI are as under:

(i) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains.

(ii) Installation of CCTV Camera in the depots and barbed wires fencing of boundary walls, provision of street lights in the godowns/complexes and proper locking of the sheds.

(iii) Security staff of FCI as well as other agencies like Home Guards and Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of stocks. Electronic surveillance in 7 depots of FCI has been installed during 2014-15.

(iv) Deployment of State Armed Police has been done at vulnerable depots/ godowns in the prone area.

(v) Security Inspection as well as surprise checks of the depots are being conducted from time to time at various levels to detect and plug any security lapses.

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(b): Yes Madam, there is sufficient storage capacity to meet increased procurement of foodgrains and for implementation of the NFSA. As on 30.6.2015, approx.75 million tons of storage capacity was available with FCI and State agencies whereas total allocation under NFSA is approx. 62 million tons.

(c): No Madam.

(d): Yes Madam, Government has approved implementation of depot online project in FCI with the objective of automating the operations of FCI at the depot level and this includes procurement, storage and movement of foodgrains with an objective to bring in efficiency and reliability in the operations. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has been completed along with process engineering for improving the identified processes to be automated.
