

Damage of Foodgrains due to lack of storage and steps taken to tackle the problem

*297. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:**

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are facing great difficulty in storing foodgrains at present in the country;

(b) if so, whether due to lack of storing accommodation, foodgrains in large quantities have been damaged or destroyed; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tackle the problem of storage and movement of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). Even though there have been stresses on storage facilities in the past in some States during the peak procurement season, adequate steps have been taken, and foodgrains procured on Central account have not been damaged due to lack of storage facilities.

(c) In order to ensure increased availability of suitable storage accommodation, the various steps taken include construction of godowns under crash programmes by Food Corporation of India, construction of godowns through private parties on guarantee of occupation for specified years, storage of foodgrains on plinths by providing protection by polythene covers/tarpaulins, encouragement to co-operatives, co-ordinated efforts to put up additional storage capacity by the various agencies like Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporations, etc.

In order to ensure movement of foodgrains, movement plans are finalised periodically in consultation with

the various agencies and the Railways and its implementation is closely watched. The level of movement achieved in the recent months has ensured adequate supply of grains to the deficit areas.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very long answer.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I would like the Minister to inform us as to what has been the extent of damage of foodgrains during the past year.

Secondly, I would like to know the procedure for the disposal of these damaged foodgrains.

I would also like to know whether the Government has suspected or detected any cases of wilful neglect on the part of the officials so that the damaged foodgrains can be disposed of by them to make money.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The average of storage loss is, as I have mentioned, less than 0.5 per cent.

As far as the storage and transit loss is concerned, during the last three years, 1968-69 it was 0.96 per cent, 1969-70—0.92 per cent and 1970-71—0.92 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Question-Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Uniform sale price of Sugar at Fair Price Shops in the country

*281. **SHRI RAM PRAKASH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue price of levy sugar has been uniform throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not ensuring uniform sale price of sugar at Fair Price Shops?