

Damage to Foodgrains

4165. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains damaged in the country during the last three years and so far in 1998;

(b) the reasons for the losses; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to save the foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of foodgrains transferred from sound to damage account during storage with the Central Storage agencies during the last three years and so far in 1998 and value thereof are as under:

Year	Qty. in MTs	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-%	32,719	1601.21
1996-97	55,678	2435.51
1997-98*	75,689	
1998-99*	10,987	
(as on 30th. June, 1998)		

*Provisional-Quantity actually damaged and value thereof yet to be assessed.

(b) In spite of best possible care taken for proper storage and preservation of foodgrains, some damage to foodgrains occur due to natural calamities like floods, cyclone, etc. either during storage or in transit. Some damage may also occur during storage of foodgrains under Covered And Plinth (CAP) where there is a possibility of covers being blown off due to high velocity of wind etc.

(c) Following measures are taken by the storage agencies for proper preservation of foodgrain stocks;

(i) Storage is undertaken mostly in godowns constructed on scientific lines which are rodent and damp proof.

(ii) The foodgrains stocks are stored in scientific manner and regular prophylactic and curative treatments (spraying and fumigation) are undertaken to control stored grains pests.

(iii) The stocks are stored on appropriate dunnage material like wooden crates, poly diets etc. and

when stored under CAP, covered with specially fabricated polythene covers which are water proof.

(iv) Nylon ropes, cover tops and monofilaments nets are used for proper lashing of polythene covers to prevent damage due to ballooning of covers caused by high velocity wind.

(v) The stocks are subjected to regular inspection by trained quality control staff and issued on "first-in-first-out" (FIFO) basis.

Proposal to Import Sugar on Levy Account

4166. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import sugar on the levy account;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for importing sugar despite a surplus stock;