

(c) No starvation deaths have been reported by any State Government.

Rotting wheat In FCI godowns

490. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stink of rotting wheat is emanating from the FCI godowns in certain places like Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that rotten foodgrains are not supplied for Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Wheat stocks in storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) complex of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Zangalapally, Anantpur (AP) were affected due to unprecedented heavy rain. The affected wheat stocks were salvaged and a quantity of 32.2 MTs has been segregated as damaged. Besides, wheat stocks in storage in CAP complexes in East and West Godavari, Krishna, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Nellore, Warangal and Mehaboobnagar districts were also affected and 414 MTs of wheat has been segregated as damaged.

(c) Only sound stocks, fit for human consumption, are issued for distribution under PDS. The stocks are also jointly inspected by the FCI and State Government officials before lifting from the FCI depot for issue under PDS.

Expansion of Public Distribution System

491. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to avoid the starvation deaths; by expanding the PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of starvation deaths reported because of the delay in identifying BPL card holders; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure foodgrains for the poor?