

enact a National Food Security Act which, *interalia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. The quantity of foodgrains and additional subsidy required are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalized, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

Storage of wheat

4646. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether in view of sufficient production of wheat this year, Government has admitted that a large quantum of wheat will have to be stored in open spaces for want of proper storage facilities in the country;

(b) if so whether wheat will be stored in Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage facilities in some States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether storing wheat in covered and plinth facilities in States are prone to damages; and

(e) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Some quantity of wheat will have to be stored in Covered and Plinth (CAP) which is a proven and scientific method of storage.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The storage of wheat in CAP in the major procuring States of Punjab and Haryana during Rabi Marketing Season 2010-11 is given in Statement-I and II (See below).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The following steps are taken for safe and scientific storage in CAP:—

- (i) The Storage in Covered and Plinth storage (CAP), is on elevated pucca plinths and proper scientific code of storage is adopted.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, such as, wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iii) Covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of insects/pests are provided.
- (iv) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly for the control of insects/pests.

- (v) Effective rat control measures are done.
- (vi) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI including senior officers.
- (vii) The principle of “First in First Out” is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in CAP.

Statement-I

Storage Space Scenario for storing wheat by State Agencies

Punjab

(Figures in lakh MT)

Estimated Procurement	92.00
Total CAP Capacity available with Agencies	82.23
Wheat Stocks as on 1.4.2010	41.20
Vacant CAP as on 1.4.2010	41.03
Vacant Covered Space	17.80
Total Vacant Space	58.83
Shortfall of Space	33.17
Anticipated Hiring of CAP during RMS 2010-11	13.00
Anticipated Movement during April/May	9.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	11.17
Haryana	
Estimated Procurement	60.00
Total CAP Capacity available with Agencies	40.64
Wheat Stocks as on 1.4.2010	24.85
Vacant CAP as on 1.4.2010	15.79
Vacant Covered Space	21.60
Total Vacant Space	37.39
Shortfall of Space	22.61
Anticipated Short term Hiring of CAP during RMS 2010-11	11.00
Anticipated Movement during April/May	11.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	0.61

Statement-II

Storage Space Scenario for storing wheat by FCI

Punjab

(Figures in lakh MT)

Estimated Procurement (FCI Share)	23.00
Vacant CAP Capacity as on 1.4.2010	10.50
Covered Godowns not to be used for rice and vacant covered accommodation	4.80
Hiring of CAP	1.44
Plinths under construction in FCI Depots	0.80
Shortfall	5.46
Anticipated Direct Movement from Mandis	4.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	1.46

Haryana

Estimated Procurement (FCI Share)	10.00
Vacant CAP Capacity as on 1.4.2010	2.73
Vacant Covered Capacity	3.90
Total Capacity	6.63
Shortfall	3.37
Anticipated Direct Movement from Mandis	3.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	0.37

*Net shortfall of space will be met by using rice mill plinths, mandi yards additional hiring of covered and CAP capacities in procurement as well as consumption States etc.

Over-consumption by people

†4647. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is of the opinion that prices are rising due to over-consumption by people;
- (b) if so, Government's figures regarding people affected with malnutrition; and
- (c) the reasons behind rising prices and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.