

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, it is not true that thousands of tonnes of wheat is lying rotting outside the FCI godowns. A total of 2,85,340 MT of capacity was rented out in Rajasthan during 2006-08 out of which 2,69,086 MT capacity has already been taken back, leaving a capacity of only 16534 MT. Out of this remaining capacity, a shed of 1280 MT at FSD Gandhinagar, Jaipur is still with the Rajasthan State Beverages Corporation Ltd. (A Government of India Undertaking) which was reported in the media. This capacity is also in the process of vacation.

(c) No, Sir. The total rented out capacity as on 28.2.2010 is only 56570 MT out of total capacity of 129.69 Lakh MT of FCI's own capacity which comes to just 0.4%. Further it is clarified that only 9.47 Lakh MT of stocks out of total available stocks of 218.35 Lakh MT have been stored in CAP (open) by FCI as on 15.3.2010 which comes to 4%. Moreover CAP storage by FCI is a scientific method of storing certain foodgrains like wheat and paddy in the open for shorter durations and proper preservation of the stock is undertaken to ensure that the quality of foodgrains is maintained.

(d) The rented out godowns are being taken back as per the requirement in view of the changed circumstances. The total rented out capacity as on 31.3.2007 was 7,53,933 MT, out of which most of the capacity has been taken back with a result that only 56,570 MT is remaining on rent as on 28.2.2010.

#### **Irregularities in distribution of ration in Uttar Pradesh**

†2357. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attention of the Central Government has been drawn towards rampant irregularities in distribution of ration in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons of irregularities;

(c) the steps taken to check the above irregularities; and

(d) if no steps have been taken then the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) There have been reports of irregularities in distribution of foodgrains through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in States/UTs, including in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the States and UTs. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over monitoring of functioning rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

State and UT Governments are mandated under the PDS Control, 2001 to carry

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

out all required remedial action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS in the States/UTs.

State/UT Governments are periodically carrying out review of existing lists of ration cards to eliminate bogus ration cards/units in them. Instructions were issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing list of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards.

The Government has requested States/UTs to carry out door step delivery of TPDS commodities directly to Fair Price Shops.

A scheme for the computerization of TPDS operations has been taken up on pilot basis in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

A pilot scheme for smart card based delivery of TPDS commodities, in place of existing ration cards has been initiated in Haryana and Chandigarh. Here in smart cards containing biometric features of family members would be issued.

Introduction of Global Positioning System (GPS) has been taken up on pilot basis in Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi for tracking movement of vehicles carrying TPDS commodities.

The above referred measures will curb diversion of PDS commodities as well as ensure their sale only to intended beneficiaries.

#### **Rottening of foodgrains**

2358. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that a large quantity of foodgrains stored in Government godowns are being lost due to rotting and the presence of pests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a maximum time limit for the storage of foodgrains in godowns and prompt replacement of old stocks within a stipulated time-frame;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to dispose damaged foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Negligible quantity of foodgrains stored in godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) are being lost due to rotting and the presence of pests. The foodgrains are damaged and become non-issuable due to various reasons, such as, heavy rains, floods, acceptance of below specifications stocks, insects and