

In the Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12), it has been indicated that the revised poverty lines recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission for 2004-05.

Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to suggest methodology for conducting the next BPL census in rural areas. The terms of reference of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the BPL Census for the 11th Five Year Plan does not include estimation of poverty. The Expert Group submitted its Report which has been considered by an inter-ministerial core group. Ministry of Rural Development is in process of conducting a pre-testing study to establish the final methodologies for identification of the rural poor.

Rotting of wheat

‡2156. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding rotting/spoiling of wheat in Food Corporation of India's godowns situated in various parts, if so, the details thereof, godown-wise and quantum-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for preventing this loss; and

(c) the action taken against the officers responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received about damage to FCI foodgrains stocks by rains and floods during July, 2010 in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab as given below:

States	Depots	Damaged wheat (tons)
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	Hapur	9.3
	Harduaganj	90
	Orai, Jalaun	0.5

1	2	3
	Saharanpur, CWC Bamanheri	29.2
	CWC, Saharanpur, Pilkhani	1.0
	Roza, Shahjahanpur	Damage yet to be quantified
	Chanderi, Kanpur	Damage yet to be quantified
Rajasthan	Udaipur, rail head	8.56
Haryana	HSWC, Bani	Damage yet to be quantified
Punjab	CAP complex Khonuri, Sangrur	Damage yet to be quantified
Uttarakhand	SWC Gadarpur, Udham Singh Nagar	Damage yet to be quantified

Above damages to foodgrains stocks have taken place due to failure in taking required precautionary measures by the concerned officers of FCI except at Bani in Haryana where the damage has been due to flood.

(b) Corrective steps being taken by FCI for proper storage, movement and safe upkeep of foodgrains are given in Statement (See below).

(c) FCI has initiated action including suspension of eight officers for dereliction at Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj. In Rajasthan Region, handling and transport contractor is responsible for damage of wheat at Railhead Udaipur and the loss will be recovered from the contractor by FCI. Damages at rest of the FCI depots are yet to be quantified based on which FCI has to fix responsibility.

Statement

Steps taken by FCI for proper storage, movement and upkeep of foodgrains

In order to prevent losses due to damage of foodgrains in FCI godowns, there are standing guidelines for proper handling and scientific storage of wheat and other stocks of foodgrains in FCI godowns. These need to be followed strictly by FCI authorities. As per the guidelines, FCI has to take these steps:

- (i) All FCI godowns be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.

- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests and rodents.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates to be used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular inspections of the stocks/godowns be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.
- (vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vii) Only covered wagons be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.
- (viii) Proper weighment and accounting be done at the time of receipt and issue.
- (ix) Transit losses in movement of foodgrains by rail be insured.
- (x) While transporting foodgrains from Depot to Rail head & vice-versa, escorts be provided.

Comparative price of foodgrains

‡2157. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prices of food-items, edible oils, pulses, cereals before March, 2009 and in March, 2010 in the country; and

(b) the break-up of prices, food-itemwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The break up of prices of food-item wise—edible oils, pulses, cereals, sugar and vegetables (potato and onion), before March, 2009 and in March, 2010 in the country in 4 Metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai is given in Statement.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi