

Based on report of the team on Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj depots, FCI has been asked to take immediate further action. As per the FCI's report, they have suspended 8 officers/officials against whom disciplinary proceedings have been launched.

Similarly, Central Teams were deputed to Haryana and Punjab. Exact quantities of all these damages are being worked out. After detailed enquiry in each case of damages, FCI and concerned State agencies are to fix responsibility and recover the losses.

Rotting of wheat

‡2168. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that wheat is rotting in godowns in many States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for rotting of wheat in godowns and steps taken by Government against guilty officials; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, some quantity of wheat gets damaged due to various reasons such as rains, floods, cyclones, pest, rodents and fungus infestation of stocks.

Total quantity of damaged wheat as on 1.07.2010 available in the godowns of FCI is 2,486 MTs. The State-wise damages are given in the Statement (See below).

Whenever negligence is found resulting in the wastage of foodgrains responsibility is fixed on delinquent employees of FCI and disciplinary action is initiated against them. The details of such actions during last three years is as under:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Year	No. of officials proceeded against for wastage of foodgrains	No. of vigilance cases finalised	Pending No. of vigilance cases
2007-08	31	26	5
2008-09	50	43	7
2009-10	28	25	3
Total	109	94	15

(d) The following steps are taken for the safe storage of foodgrains in the godowns of FCI:

- (i) All FCI godowns are constructed as per specifications and foodgrains are stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals are provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments are carried out regularly and timely for the control of insects, pests and rodents.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular inspection of stocks are undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.
- (vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) is adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid long storage of foodgrains in the godowns.

Statement

Quantity of State-wise Damaged wheat Stock in FCI godowns as on 1.07.2010

(Fig.in MT)

State	Quantity damaged
1	2
Bihar	360
Jharkhand	13
West Bengal	364

1	2
Punjab	52 -
Rajasthan	12
Uttar Pradesh	40
Kerala	8
Tamil Nadu	1
Gujarat	1396
Maharashtra	182
Madhya Pradesh	56
Chhattisgarh	2
GRAND TOTAL	2486

Cheaper foodgrains to BPL families

‡2169. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of quantum of cheaper foodgrains made available by Government to the people living below poverty line in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to implement National Food Security Law in order to provide cheaper foodgrains to the people living below poverty line; and
- (c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The State-wise details of the allocation and offtake of foodgrains for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) & Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories during the last three years are given in Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act, which, interalia, envisages entitling every BPL family to a certain quantity of foodgrains every month at subsidized prices. The provisions of the proposed law are under consideration of an Empowered group of Ministers (E-GoM) constituted for the purpose. Based on the decision of EGoM, a draft Bill will be prepared and placed on the web-site of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi