

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Now that you have continued the same question, may I put one supplementary question, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

CENTRAL GODOWNS

*153. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN** : †

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangements made for safe storage of foodgrains in Central godowns;

(b) the total expenditure incurred per annum on the main storage of the Central godowns

(c) the overall storage capacity of these godowns;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains, which was spoiled or eaten away by rats in these godowns during the last five years; and

(e) the preventive measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The expenditure incurred during 1966-67 was Rs. 182.85 lakhs.

(c) As on 1st November 1967 the overall storage capacity of the Central godowns was 14.52 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT I

The following arrangements have been made for safe storage of foodgrains in Central Godowns :—

(i) All the Central Godowns constructed or under construction are modern structures designed to be damp and rodent proof.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. P. Khaitan.

(ii) The godowns are frequently inspected for leakage of rain water, overflowing of drains and such other defects that are likely to damage the grain.

(iii) Foodgrains are inspected at the time of receipt with a view to assessing their suitability for storage.

(iv) Suitable dunnage is provided to prevent damage to foodgrains due to moisture.

(v) Grain is inspected at frequent intervals during storage by technically qualified staff.

(vi) Prophylactic treatment is carried out at regular intervals to protect the grain from insect infestation. When insect infestation is noticed, grain is fumigated.

(vii) Bird scarers are used wherever bird nuisance exists.

(viii) Adequate arrangements are made for fire-fighting.

(ix) Watch and ward staff is provided to prevent pilferage and thefts.

STATEMENT II

The godowns constructed by the Central Government are rat-proof. Only in a few godowns taken on hire there is a possibility of damage to foodgrains by rats. Losses in storage occur on account of diriage, insect damage, bird damage and rat damage, the last wherever the godowns are not rat-proof. It is not possible to assess separately the losses on account of each factor. The percentage of overall storage losses of foodgrains during the last five years are given below :—

Year	Percentage of loss to the quantity stored
1962-63	0.24
1963-64	0.20
1964-65	0.26
1965-66	0.13
1966-67	0.12

Preventive Measures.—The godowns constructed so far and being constructed by the Government are modern structures designed to be rat-proof. In

respect of a small capacity in hired godowns which are not rat-proof, technical staff carry out rat control operations with modern techniques for preventing damage by rats to foodgrain.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : क्या मंत्री जी यह बतलाने के लिए कि कौन से प्रदेश में इसकी सब से ज्यादा कैपेसिटी है और सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान कौन से शहर में हुआ है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I have given in the Statement the percentage of loss suffered in storages in government godowns all over the country. I have not got the information about particular storages because it will take a lot of time to obtain that information. In the Statement in reply to parts (d) and (e) of the question I have mentioned that the damage suffered ranges from 12 to 24 per cent in respect of foodgrains.

SHRI B. T. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government whether it is not essential to have adequate storage capacity in the country in order to be able to create buffer-stocks of the magnitude required in this country and to continue the public distribution system in a satisfactory manner? Also may I know from the Government whether in the recent past, during the last two years or so, the grants given to the States for building up of storage capacity in the case of cooperative societies and in the villages, have been largely discontinued and because of that there is very little storage built up? May I know from the Government whether they have any desire at all to increase the grant given to the multipurpose cooperative societies in the villages so as to enable them to create sufficient storage capacity in the villages? That is one part of my question. And secondly, as regards the contention of the hon. Minister that the loss is only 10 per cent in the case of foodgrains may I point out that there is another observation that it is up to 30 per cent in the case of post-harvest wastage? If that is so, may I know from the Government what arrangements they are planning to have in order to avoid

such wastage during harvesting of the foodgrains in the field? Also may I know whether mechanical implements are going to be used in order to avoid such wastage?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, at the very outset may I submit that we should all be proud of the fact that quite considerable capacity has already been built up in the country during the last ten years or so, particularly during the post-independence period. In the pre-independence period no modern storage capacity worth the name was established in the country. Of course, due to inadequacy of resources, especially during the last one or two years, the tempo of development of these storage constructions has slowed down. Even then the capacity built up is considerable. In reply to the main question I have mentioned only the capacity which has been built up in the Central sector. There are other sectors also. The foodgrains Corporation has quite substantial capacity and then there is the Warehousing Corporation which has capacity to the tune of about 185 million tonnes. And in the cooperative societies they have built up a capacity of 3 million tonnes. In all there is capacity to the tune of 5 to 6 million tonnes available in the country. If we wish to have buffer stocks up to 5 or 6 million tonnes of foodgrains, as indicated by the Expert Committee, we should have capacity to the extent of about 7 million tonnes so that adequate capacity can be provided for the storage of foodgrains. As far as the other part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I do not think mechanisation is the solution to the problem. Construction of concrete bins and steel bins will be useful. There should also be provisions for better threshing and so on. The Expert Committee I mentioned is studying this problem and as soon as the final report of the Committee is available to us we shall go into the solution of this problem.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : यह स्टोरेज कैपेसिटी जो बनाई जा रही है उसके अन्दर भी अनाज के खराब होने की शिकायतें आई हैं। तो क्या

सरकार की तरफ से जो गोडाउन बनाए गए हैं वे किस प्रकार से डिफेक्टिव हैं ? उनमें कीड़ा क्यों लगता है, सीलन क्यों लगती है इसकी जांचकारी के लिए हम क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं ? यह सीलन न आवे या कीड़ा न लगे इसके लिए बने हुए गोडाऊन्स में हम और क्या सुधार करना चाहते हैं ।

दूसरे यह कि पिछले दिनों में इनसेक्टीमाइड का प्रयोग अनाज सुरक्षा के लिए हुआ है और उसके सम्बन्ध में अनेक बार ये शिकायतें आ रही हैं कि इस प्रकार के अनाज को जब वितरण के लिए दिया जाता है तो उसमें से फूड पाइजनिंग के केमेज पैदा होते हैं । तो क्या सरकार की तरफ से इस प्रकार के गोडाऊन्स में रखे हुए अनाज का वितरण करने के पहले कोई स्पेसिफिक इन्स्पेक्शन या ऐसा पग उठाने की योजना है या उठाए गए है । जिससे वितरित किया गया अनाज पाईजनिंग अवरोध से मुक्त होकर ही कन्ज्यूमर को दिया जाय ? अगर इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था न की गई तो गोडाऊन्स में जिस मंशा से हम अनाज को बचा कर रखते हैं वह पूरी नहीं होगी और अगर अनाज विषयुक्त हो गया तो उसको बचाने का क्या उपयोग होगा । तो मैं दोनों प्रकार की सावधानियां बरते जाने का आश्वासन चाहता हूं । सीलन न आवे और कीड़ा न लगे, इसके लिए क्या इम्प्रूवमेंट सरकार कर रही है और दूसरे इनसेक्टीमाइड के जहरीले असर से अनाज मुक्त हो वितरण के पूर्व, इन दोनों ही दृष्टियों से सरकार कौन से पग उठा रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the Government storage godowns are concerned, they are damp proof and rodent proof. Fumigation is also done there.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : They are on paper only

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is not so. That is why the figures of losses in the godowns are so negligible less than 0.2 per cent., and that too occurs as a result of loss of moisture, etc. The loss shown here also

includes loss in weight as a result of loss of moisture. For instance foodgrains come from the U.S.A. There they are in a different climatic condition. In India we have dry weather condition and the moisture content in the foodgrains goes down as a result of storage. Our foodgrains also contain some moisture at the time of storage. So the losses are not entirely due to rodents or insects. As far as the Government storage godowns are concerned, modern facilities are there. But in our country the private sector never attended to this aspect of the problem and the storage capacity hired on Government account from the trading community is not modern. That is why the losses are there.

As for the second part of the question, we issue foodgrains after inspection. There are standing instructions in this regard and those who are to take delivery of the foodgrains are free to reject the foodgrains if they are found to be sub-standard.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, May I . . .

DR. ANUP SINGH : Sir, I want to ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I mention the name of a person others who have got up should sit down. I am taking the highest care possible in attracting myself to the person who stands first and note it down immediately so that he gets the opportunity. Therefore you should help me and co-operate with me. I shall call you next.

DR. ANUP SINGH : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know how many of the stores are full and how many of them are empty ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : At the moment the occupancy is naturally low. When we have adequate stocks naturally there will be foodgrains stored there.

DR. ANUP SINGH : Is the hon. Minister aware that some of the seed packages that were distributed to the farmer—MPs—one-third or one-fourth of them—have been found to be absolutely rotten and they will not germinate ? I presume they were all kept in Government storage.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I do not think this arises out of this question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I draw your attention to the fact that the Minister in his written reply has not answered part (d) of the question? I would like to read part (d) :

"(d) the quantity of foodgrains, which was spoiled or eaten away by rats in these godowns during the last five years ; and"

And in answer in this statement it is said that suitable dunnage is provided to prevent damage to foodgrains due to moisture. The issue raised by the questioner in part (d) of the question was about the damage done by rodents and this question has not been answered, but there is a reference to damage due to moisture. Sir, an allegation has been made that 30 per cent of the foodgrains stored are eaten away by rats. I would like to ask what the experience of the Ministry in respect of the Central godowns is in this regard. Is it 30 per cent or less?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Had the hon. Member been a little bit careful, he would have seen that I have laid a statement giving actually the percentage of loss from 1962-63 to 1966-67. All this has been mentioned in the statement.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : Are the Government aware that a good deal of foodgrains is lost at the threshing floor itself and also in the godowns of the farmers? May we know whether any help can be given to them to have concrete threshing floors, whether money will be advanced to the peasants to have improved storage facilities?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I think the hon. Member has made a very useful suggestion. The Government is also examining the position from that angle and I think that would reduce the substantial loss that is caused in post-harvest operations in various places.

TRANSFER OF D.M.S. TO DELHI ADMINISTRATION

*154. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to transfer the Delhi Milk Scheme to the Delhi Administration ; and

(b) whether it is proposed to develop a big dairy farm for the Delhi Milk Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) Delhi Administration is not interested in taking over the Scheme for the present.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know how this question came up? If the Delhi Administration was not interested in taking over the Delhi Milk Scheme, is it that the Central Government wanted to transfer one of its bad coins to the Delhi Administration or is it that they initially made a request for its transfer but when they realised the implications of the transfer they refused to take it up?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I am not prepared to say that this is a scheme which one cannot be proud of handling. In fact the suggestion came from the Centre itself that the Delhi Administration should take over this scheme because it is a municipal function like supply of water, electricity, etc. and we thought that the Delhi Administration would be in a better position to look after this scheme but this proposition was not acceptable to the Delhi Administration.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know whether the Government is aware that no milk scheme can be successful unless a dairy is attached to it and if that proposition is accepted, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to see that a well-developed dairy farm is attached to the Delhi Milk Scheme?