

The requirement of covered storage capacity for foodgrains for the consuming areas has been worked out on the basis of four month's requirement of Public Distribution System (PDS) and other Welfare Schemes in a State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock levels in the last three years are considered to decide the storage capacity required. To substantially reduce CAP storage capacity, the Government has formulated a Guarantee Scheme for construction of godowns for FCI as well as for the States undertaking Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains, through private entrepreneurs, CWC and SWCs. The additional covered storage capacity required has been worked out to be about 150 lakh tonnes in 19 States.

(c) During the last calendar year the storage capacity of FCI, both owned and hired, including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) increased from 281.01 lakh tonnes as on 31.12.2009 to 306.12 lakh tonnes on 31.12.2010. Thus 25.11 lakh tonnes of storage capacity for foodgrains was added by FCI.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Wages of coal workers

1861. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the Bureau of Labour Statistics of US Government, coal workers in India are the lowest paid among the top coal-producing countries;

(b) if so, the details of wages paid to a coal worker in India and in other countries like Australia, UK, Brazil, US, Germany, China, etc.; and

(c) the reasons for such low wages and how the Ministry is planning to redress this issue and pay more wages to coal workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal does not maintain comparative statistics of wages of coal workers in different countries.

(c) Wages of coal workers in Coal India Limited and its Subsidiaries are fixed by Wage agreement between Coal India and five Central Trade Unions (CTUs). So far eight National Coal Wage Agreements (NCWA) have been executed. The eighth wage agreement was signed on 24.1.2009 for a period of 5 years from 1.7.2006 to 30.6.2011. As per NCWA-VIII, the minimum guaranteed benefit was @ 24% on the total emoluments as on 30.6.2006, apart from other benefits such as annual increment @ 3% on progressive basis, 50% increase in other allowances, payment of HRA on revised basic, revision of underground allowance, enhancement of gratuity ceiling etc. Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI)-IX is being constituted under which National Coal Wage Agreement-IX will be signed after negotiations between management and CTUs.