

Storage of procured foodgrains

32. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing acute shortage of godowns to store the procured foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that, in many places, the foodgrains are stored in open areas of the FCI godowns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 332.50 lakh MTs of storage capacity including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 91% as on 30.6.2011. Apart from storing in covered godowns, wheat is also stored in CAP which is also a scientific method of storage. Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme is based on the overall procurement/consumption and the storage space already available. For the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four months requirement of 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.

Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State wise capacity requirement and locations were identified. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

To tide over the problem of shortage of storage space, FCI hires storage space from CWC/SWCs/Govt. agencies and private parties etc. Executive Directors (Zones) and General Managers (Region) of FCI have also been given full powers for hiring of private godowns for short term usage to store the procured foodgrains as per their requirement if the capacity available with FCI is not sufficient to store the foodgrains.

The details of foodgrains stored under CAP in the FCI godowns is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Region-wise stock position of Wheat and Paddy stored in
Cover and Plinth (CAP) in FCI Depots as on 01.07.2011*

(Figures in MT)

Region	Wheat	Paddy	Total Foodgrains
West Bengal	431	0	431
Punjab	975681	225	975906
Haryana	329793	0	329793
Rajasthan	800781	0	800781
Uttarakhand	14512	0	14512
Uttar Pradesh	410156	0	410156
Delhi	8108	0	8108
Andhra Pradesh	46837	54384	101221
Tamil Nadu	43761	0	43761
Karnataka	93267	0	93267
Maharashtra	10954	0	10954
Madhya Pradesh.	6911	0	6911
Chhattisgarh	0	297544	297544
Gujarat	48778	0	48778
Country Total	2789970	352153	3142123