

(b) if so, why foodgrain exports, particularly wheat grain, had not been allowed by Government, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stock position of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2011 was 640.06 lakh tons as against the minimum buffer norm of 319 lakh tons.

(b) Export of Agricultural products depend upon several factors such as availability of surplus, International demand and supply situation, quality standards and price competitiveness. Presently, the prices of wheat in the international market are much lower compared to domestic prices. Taking the above into consideration, export of only limited quantity of rice has been allowed by the Government.

#### **Quota of foodgrains for States**

801. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has recently decided that States which do not lift their special allocation of foodgrains will have to lose their quota;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has ascertained the exact reasons behind not lifting the allocation of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether most of the States are unable to store the foodgrains and urged the Central Government to extend them the storage facilities; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government has decided to consider more allocation to States/UTs who lift the additional allocations made to them and demand more, out of unlifted savings of *ad hoc* additional allocations made in January, 2011 for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

The lower offtake in some States is attributable to State's inability to absorb additional allocations due to additional subsidy being borne by them on account of further subsidization, short placement of stocks at some FCI depots due to movement bottlenecks, among others.

(d) and (e) The record procurement of rice and wheat during the last three years and the current year and the consequent surplus stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool have resulted in covered storage gap. Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central and State Warehousing Corporations to

augment storage capacity. Consequent to assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme based on overall procurement/consumption and the storage needs of procuring/consuming areas and criteria laid down in the scheme, State-wise capacity requirement and locations have been identified. Under the scheme, capacity of about 152.97 lakh MTs is to be created in 19 States under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations.

#### **Construction of new godowns**

802. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new godowns constructed by FCI during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the storage capacity of FCI is sufficient to store the foodgrains procured by the Government agencies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) if not, whether new godowns are likely to be constructed by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Details showing the godowns constructed by FCI State-wise/centre-wise during the last five years and the current year is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) to (d) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 333.63 lakh MTs of storage capacity including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 90% as on 15.07.2011. The storage capacity available with FCI State-wise is given in the Annexure. "[Refer to the Annexure No. 8 Appendix No. 223 in respect of Unstarred Question No. 796 part (c) and (d) answered on 8.8.2011]". Apart from storing in covered godowns, wheat and paddy is also stored in CAP which is also a scientific method of storage. The State Agencies also store foodgrains for the Central Pool in the storage godowns maintained by them. 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.