

(v) Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (Administered by Department of Consumer Affairs)

The Advertisements aired on private satellite TV channels are regulated under the Advertising Code prescribed in rules framed under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995. The misleading Advertisements in print media, which are violative of 'Norms of Journalistic Conducts' are being adjudicated by the Press council of India under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978. The Food Safety and Standards Authority also provides for penal action against misleading advertisement pertaining to food products.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is seized of the issue of misleading advertisements and its ill effects on the consumers. A meeting of officials of various Ministries dealing with the subject, eminent journalists, NGOs and consumer activists was held on 4th August, 2011. Meeting deliberated on various ways and means to tackle the issue.

#### **Storage facilities**

2036. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government does not have sufficient godowns for storage of foodgrains, with the result that large quantity of foodgrains get spoiled in the open;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to build new godowns for storage of foodgrains;
- (d) whether Government has received any complaint that warehouses meant for storage of foodgrains are being used for storage of other items;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has a storage capacity of 333 lakh MTs in Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) capacities both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 74% as on 01.10.2011. The storage capacity with state agencies as on 1.10.2011 was 295 lakh tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of 628

lakh tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains against the Central stock of 517 lakh tonnes as on 1.10.2011. Some quantity of foodgrains gets damaged/non-issuable due to various reasons like floods, pests, rodents, natural calamities etc.

(c) Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under 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 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this as on 15.10.2011 tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 69 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.4 and 14.4 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 4 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Complaints were received regarding leasing out of godowns to Rajasthan State Breweries Corporation Ltd. The complaints were closed and no officials were held responsible as the godowns were leased out as per the policy of FCI to rent out godowns when the stock level is low. The godowns have since been vacated with effect from 10.04.2010.

#### **Rotting of foodgrains in FCI depots**

2037. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: