

Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State wise capacity requirement and locations were identified.

For Rajasthan Region a storage capacity of 2.50 lakh tonnes has been approved for construction of godowns under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme. Out of this, a capacity of 30,000 tonnes has been allotted to Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation for construction on their own lands. A capacity of 2.20 lakh tonnes has been sanctioned to Private Investors in Rajasthan out of which construction work has been started for 1.90 lakh MT.

The General Managers (Region)/Executive Directors (Zone) of FCI are fully empowered to hire the godowns for short term usage from CWC/SWCs/State Agencies/Private Parties as per requirement.

The following criteria are considered while hiring of godowns :

1. Suitability of godown structure.
2. Finalisation of terms and conditions of lease prior to the occupation of premises.
3. Rent payable, storage worthiness and distance from Railway good-shed.

#### **Sale of PDS foodgrains at higher prices**

3308. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that even 90 per cent PDS beneficiaries do not get regular supply of foodgrains and 43 per cent have expressed that local PDS officials sell foodgrains at much higher prices than the fixed prices;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take immediate action to make the PDS scam proof and would accordingly implement the Food Security Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (d) Evaluation Studies on functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are conducted by the Department from various agencies from time to time. These studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. The study reports received are sent to concerned States/Union Territories (UTs) for taking necessary remedial measures.

However, in an independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution System across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone. It has also been indicated in the report that three-quarters of the respondents reported getting their full quota in the nine survey States and that there were hardly any instances of overcharging.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels including the Supply Chain Management and automation at the FPS level.

Further, instructions and advisories are issued from time to time for reforms in PDS. In the Conference of State Food Secretaries & other officials on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held in July 2010 measures being taken by States/UTs for streamlining the TPDS were shared amongst the participants. These, *inter-alia*, related to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, door step delivery of foodgrains, enhancing viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS, increasing public awareness, monitoring distribution of PDS commodities through social audit, etc. Regional Conference were also held in February, 2011 with State/UT Food Ministers and Food Secretaries to review the implementation of TPDS. Further, a two day Conference on TPDS and Storage with Food & Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th & 9th February 2012 at New Delhi. The issues discussed in the Conference included stepping up of procurement activities, expeditious action to be taken for computerization of PDS and creation of storage capacity as well as time bound completion of existing projects.

#### **Financial condition of companies**

†3309. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.