

Scientific storage for rice

1274. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of rice has suffered due to non-availability of scientific storage in godowns; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to overcome these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Procurement of rice has not been affected due to lack of availability of storage space.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise. However, to increase the covered storage capacity for central pool stocks of foodgrains, the Government has launched the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme. 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, tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of about 89 lakh tonnes as on 29.02.2012 by the private entrepreneurs. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporation are Constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. The Government has also finalized a plan for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States under the plan scheme.

Access to PDS

1275. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains allocated under Public Distribution System have reached to only 40 per cent of the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to ensure that 100 per cent beneficiaries are able to access PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission's Report on Performance Evaluation of TPDS submitted in March, 2005, about 42% of subsidised foodgrains reached the targeted Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries. It pointed out that implementation of the TPDS suffered due to targeting errors prevalence of ghost cards, unidentified households and siphoning off of foodgrains from the supply chain.