| Sl.No. | State/UT | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20. | Orissa | 1 | 3 | 2 | - |
| 21. | Punjab | 1 | 2 | - | 2 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 7 | 6 | 6 | - |
| 23. | Sikkim | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 6 | 2 | 3 | - |
| 25. | Uttarakhand | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 46 | 33 | 68 | 6 |
| 27. | West Bengal | 4 | 2 | - | 2 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | - | 2 | - | - |
| 29. | Puducherry | - | - | - | - |
| | TOTAL | 169 | 174 | 144 | 20 |

**Lack of storage facility**

†1283. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is lack of safe storage facility in the country for keeping foodgrains procured in the Government sector;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) the total quantity of foodgrains for which safe storage facility is available at present; and

(d) the options contemplated for keeping the surplus foodgrains procured safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 01.03.2012 was about 335 lakh MTs, both owned and hired. The storage capacity with state agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains as on 31.03.2011 was 290 lakh tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of about 625 lakh tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains against the Central stock of 544 lakh tonnes as on 1.03.2012. However due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government formulated the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, a capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states. Out of this tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of about 89 lakh tonnes as on 15-02-2012 by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonnes respectively, out of which a capacity of about 5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of an additional total storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States. Further to keep any surplus foodgrains procured safe, and to meet any increased storage requirements, Executive Directors (Zones) and General Managers (Regions) of FCI have been given full powers for hiring of godowns for short term usage, if the capacity available with FCI is not sufficient to store the foodgrains.

**Procurement of wheat and rice from commission agents**

1284. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government agencies for food procurement like FCI etc. are procuring wheat and rice from commission agents and not directly from farmers in various North Indian States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these agents also play money lenders' role in the beginning of harvest season and thus exploit the farmers both ways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is actively considering to take steps against those unscrupulous commission agents and make purchases directly from the farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government agencies are procuring wheat and paddy directly from the farmers in various North Indian States. However, in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, as per the mandatory provisions of the respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts of these States, wheat and paddy is purchased through commission agents, at specified Procurement Centres.

(c) and (d) No such reports have been received by the Government. However, it is for the State Governments concerned to regulate money lending within the State.