

Lack of warehousing and godown facilities

*342. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable amount of food is wasted in the open on account of lack of warehousing and godown facilities;

(b) whether India ranks 67th among 81 countries in the 2011 Global Hunger Index, prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute where large quantities of grains continue to rot in godowns and more recently irate farmers had thrown potatoes on the roads in certain regions of the country;

(c) if so, whether it is not desirable, in such a situation, to set up adequate warehousing facilities under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode; and

(d) if so, Government's action plan to address the above issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Foodgrains are not stored in the open without any protective cover. Sometimes due to shortage of covered storage capacity, wheat and paddy are also stored in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. CAP storage is built on scientific lines with raised concrete plinths of standard height and stacks are covered with low density polyethylene (LDPE) covers.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that only 1557 tons of foodgrains kept in CAP storage accrued as damaged/non issuable with FCI during 2011-12. Total stock of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable during 2011-12 in FCI is 0.03 lakh tons which is 0.006% against the foodgrains issued by FCI during the period. Foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

(b) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has brought out a Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2011. In this report, Index has been calculated for 122 countries and India ranks 67 out of 81 countries finally included in the calculation. In the GHI report, "hunger" refers to the index based on the combination of three equally weighted indicators, i.e. 1. Undernourishment, 2. Child underweight and 3. Child mortality.

However, the index in the IFPRI report does not reflect the number of hungry or lack of availability of food or access to food to the people in the society.

Regarding the large quantities of foodgrains rotting or being damaged in the godowns, FCI has reported that as a result of constant monitoring, the accrual of damaged foodgrains has shown a downward trend. The trend of accrual of non-issuable/damaged foodgrains in FCI is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Regarding the dumping of potatoes on the roads by the farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture has informed that Government of India announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for certain agricultural commodities which presently does not include potato due to non-fulfillment of laid down criteria. However, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation does operate a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture commodities, which are perishable in nature, on the request of State Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers.

Based on the report published in the electronic and print media on the drastic fall in prices of potato in the current crop season, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has already requested all the potato growing states to furnish a detailed proposal, as per the MIS guidelines and willingness of the State Government to implement MIS. So far the Department has received only one MIS proposal for procurement of potato from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Further, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Horticulture Mission for North-Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH) since 2001-02 and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since 2005-06 for holistic development of Horticulture. There are various components under above mentioned schemes which includes setting up of cold storages, evaporative/low energy cool chambers and low cost preservation units which can be used by farmers at their fields for storing of potatoes. National Horticulture Board (NHB) since 1999-2000 is implementing a component for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages for horticulture produce also. Besides, Ministry of Food processing Industries (MoFPI), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and National Cooperative Development Corporation are also implementing schemes for development of cold chain in the country for perishables including potato.

(c) and (d) To create additional storage capacity, the Government formulated a Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee often years for assured hiring. A capacity of 151.96 lakh tons is to be created under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations in 19 States. Out of this, tenders have been

sanctioned for a capacity of 90.75 lakh tons to private investors. Besides this, capacities of 5.40 lakh tons and 14.75 lakh tons have been allotted to CWC and SWCs respectively for construction of godowns on their own land. The Government has also approved creation of a capacity of 20 lakh tons in silos within the overall storage requirements of FCI under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Besides involving private entrepreneurs, this Department has also finalized a plan scheme for creation of total additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons in the North East (NE) States through FCI. This Department also releases funds as grants-in-aid to the NE States and Jammu and Kashmir for construction of godowns for the States own storage requirements.

Statement-I

Trend of accrual of damaged foodgrains in FCI

The trend of accrual of non-issuable/damaged foodgrains in FCI during last 10 years shows decreasing trend as under:

Year	Quantity of Damaged foodgrains (in lakh tons)
2002-2003	1.35
2003-2004	0.76
2004-2005	0.97
2005-2006	0.95
2006-2007	0.25
2007-2008	0.34
2008-2009	0.20
2009-2010	0.07
2010-2011	0.06
2011-2012	0.03

The following table indicates percentage of accrual of Non-Issuable/damaged foodgrains *vis-a-vis* off take from FCI stocks for the last four years and current year (upto 1.04.2012):

Oral Answers

to Questions

Off take of stock from FCI (Excluding DCP states)

(lakh tons)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (upto 01.04.2012)
Wheat	119.89	120.16	172.99	209.60	219.95
Rice	204.61	186.04	198.07	222.50	253.64
TOTAL	324.50	306.20	371.06	432.10	473.59
Quantity accrued as Non-issuable (in lakh tons)	0.34	0.20	0.07	0.06	0.03
Percentage of non-issuable stock					
In terms of quantity	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.014	0.006

Against the percentage of foodgrain issued by FCI, the accrual of Non-issuable is 0.006% against total off take of stocks from FCI during 2011-12.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, I express my thanks to the hon. Minister for giving an elaborate answer to my question. My supplementary question is that India is one of the top countries in respect of wastage of foodgrains and suicides by farmers in the world because of paucity of funds with the farmers and lack of facilities for storage of foodgrains.

I understand that a few days back, the apex court has also given instructions that in a situation like above, the foodgrains should be supplied free of cost to the needy to avoid its wastage in the open. If so, what is the action plan of the Government on the above direction?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the accrual of damaged foodgrains is handled by the FCI and the State Governments. Because of the concerted efforts of the FCI and also of major foodgrains producing States like Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, this accrual of damages is coming down. In 2002-03, the quantity of damaged foodgrains accrued was 1.35 lakh tonnes in FCI and, Sir, now, in 2010-11, it has come down to 0.06 lakh tonnes. So, actually, from 0.271 per cent of damages, it has come down to 0.014 per cent. It is a great achievement due to the operations of the FCI as well as the State Governments.

With regard to the direction of the apex Court, Sir, the Supreme Court has directed that 50-lakh tonnes of foodgrains should be earmarked to be distributed amongst 74 poorest Districts in the country. We have earmarked that much quantity, which is at the disposal of the Supreme Court. So far, only 23.69 lakh tonnes of foodgrains could be distributed under the direction of the Supreme Court.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, whether it is a fact that procurement facility, especially, in the countryside, is in shambles, and, the farmers are forced to sell their crops at throwaway prices, especially in Orissa and other backward regions of the country. What is the action plan of the Government to overcome the above grave reality, bridge this gap and help the farmers? What is your action plan firstly to ensure better prices for the farmers for their produce, and, secondly, to control farmers' suicides consequently?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, for the targeted public distribution and the welfare schemes in the country, we need about 61 million tonnes of foodgrains which is to the tune of 30 per cent of what we produce in the country. Sir, before each procuring season, there is a discussion between the officials of the Food and Public Distribution, the FCI and the State Governments to chalk out the mechanism. As of now, we have got about 61-63 million tonnes capacity for storages under covered and CAP. We have started programmes by which under the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme, we will be adding 151.96 lakh tonnes within a period of another two years. This year, under the PEG Scheme, we have added about three million tonnes; and by the end of December, another two-three million tonnes will be added. Along with this, we have got the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana. As per the information that I have gathered from the Ministry of Agriculture, already 31 million tonnes of intermediate godowns have been approved for the State Governments and local bodies. It may not be hundred per cent used for the storage of foodgrains. They will be used for other storages also. As of now, our storage mechanism is quite satisfactory, but we have already given instructions to all our managers of the FCI., if needed, to have private godowns hired for storages.

PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, I think the statement made by the Minister on the various steps taken to store the grains safely is an encouraging one. This year, thanks to both good weather and farmers' toil, wheat production may go up to 90 million tonnes, and the Government may have to procure about 35 million tonnes of wheat in the next two months. I would like to ask the Minister this question. He has a number of schemes like the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme, the Public Private Partnership, etc. These will take a lot of time. In the short term, has the Ministry got any strategy to move the grains, with the help of the Railways, to major consumption centres? If so, how much quantity are you likely to move out of the major procurement centres during the next few months?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, in the present season, the major wheat producing States are Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. A few days back, I had a discussion with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for the efficient storages as well as the movement foodgrains out of—Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, we have chalked out a plan of movement of foodgrains out of major wheat producing States.

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are the major rice-producing States. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, paddy is procured giving the MSP price by the millers. And from the millers, the FCI takes over the milled rice and transports it to the various States which need it.

श्रीमति माया सिंह: सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो सवाल का जबाब लिखित में दिया है, उसमें भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने सूचित किया है कि 2011-12 के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास कैप भंडारण में रखे केवल 1557 टन खाद्यान्न क्षतिग्रस्त/जारी न करने योग्य हुए थे।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में खाद्यान्न क्षतिग्रस्त होता है, खराब होता है, तो क्या मंत्री जी पी.डी.एस. के तहत सप्लाई किए जाने वाले खाद्यान्न को, कार्डधारकों को पूरे वर्ष का राशन एकमुश्त देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे? इससे एक तो भंडारण की समस्या का समाधान होगा, कार्डधारकों को बार-बार राशन लेने के लिए लगाए जाने वाले चक्करों से बचाया जा सकेगा तथा अन्न भी क्षतिग्रस्त नहीं होगा। अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि मध्य प्रदेश में अन्न खुले स्थानों पर पड़ा है। मुख्य मंत्री को केन्द्र में बार-बार यह आग्रह करने के लिए आना पड़ता है कि बारदानों की कमी की वजह से अनाज खुले में पड़ा है। आप केन्द्र से बारदाना, जूट की बोरियाँ उपलब्ध कराते हैं। आप ने मांग के अनुसार अभी तक वे बोरियाँ भी उपलब्ध नहीं कराई हैं, तो फिर अन्न की बर्बादी कैसे रुकेगी? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश ने यह भी कहा है कि अगर आप कार्ड धारकों को पूरे वर्ष का राशन एक समय में राशन देने की व्यवस्था करवा दें, तो इससे भंडारण की समस्या का भी समाधान होगा और कार्ड धारक बार-बार सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के चक्कर लगाने से भी बच पाएंगे तथा अन्न भी सड़ने से बचेगा। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या ऐसा हो सकता है?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the Government of India has written letters several times to every State Government to take the foodgrains for three months, four months and six months. But unfortunately our State Governments do not have intermediate storage capacities. They straightaway take from the FCI godowns and then it is transported to the PDS shops. The Government of India has formulated a large number of schemes, especially by the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Grameen Bhandar Yojana, under the NABARD so that States can have their own intermediate godowns. Unless States have intermediate godowns, it is practically not possible for the States to take the foodgrains from the FCI godowns to the intermediate godowns and then send the same to the PDS shops. We are giving adequate assistance to any State Government which wants foodgrains for three months, six months, whatever type; we are prepared to give them.

Coming to Madhya Pradesh, Sir, every year, as I said, before the season starts, we had a meeting to find out what is the procurement mechanism, how many jute bags should be given. But unfortunately, Madhya Pradesh, which is one of the new emerging States, which does not have much experience in storages and transportation etc. Sir, it was on 22-11-2011, we had a joint meeting of the FCI officials, State Government officials to assess how many jute bags were required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can a specific question be answered?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, we have continuous discussion. I have deputed my officials four times to Madhya Pradesh; and whatever jute bags are required by the State we will arrange. I have sent a detailed letter to the hon. Chief Minister last Friday; I can place it on the Table of the House, wherein I have given all the details. We are trying to help the State Government. But we must understand that Madhya Pradesh State has a problem. It is inexperienced. So, we cannot give correct projection how much we have to procure and how much we have to transfer. ..(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please.

श्री अनिल माधव दवे: सर, मंत्री जी से कहिए कि ...(*व्यवधान*) प्रश्न का जवाब दें।
...(*व्यवधान*)... सर माननीय सदस्या ने जो मांग की थी ...(*व्यवधान*)...उसका जवाब नहीं आया है।
...(*व्यवधान*)

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। Silence please. ..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, the hon. Minister, in reply to question part (b) has stated, "However, index in the International Food Policy Research Institute report does not reflect the number of hungry or lack of availability of food or access to food to the people of the society." Sir, in India we have got several yardsticks under the BPL. The Planning Commission once said it is 27.7 per cent BPL number combined. It has gone to the Tendulkar Committee. It said 37 per cent. It has gone to the Arjun Sengupta Committee. It said \$2 less. It is 75 per cent and above. Lastly, only yesterday, the *Times of India*, reported 64 per cent as the BPL number.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: I am coming. My point is if the IPRF standard is not applicable, then, what standard is applicable to find out how many Indians go hungry every night?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, the question is on storage.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, it relates to part (b) of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, it relates to part (b) of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it relates to part (b). Part (b) relates to the foodgrains. It is connected to that.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, regarding the question of Global Hunger Index, the GHI, which is introduced by the International Food Policy Research Institute, is based on three parameters. First is undernourishment; second is child underweight; and third is child mortality. These are some of the norms which have to be

rechecked. That is what I have said in my answer. They have to be rechecked because there is some dispute on this. But even on this undernourishment, child underweight and child mortality, the Government of India, especially, the Ministry of Health, has taken a large number of steps. On this index of undernourishment, child underweight and child mortality, we are trying to find out some solution which is basically done by the Ministry of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 343. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, please. It is an important issue. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You can have a discussion. You give notice for it. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is an important question. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. We can't have a discussion now.

SHRI M.S. GILL: Sir, the whole storage problem was related to Punjab. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, this is a very important question. (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, I appreciate the point. Please give notice for a discussion. (*Interruptions*)... We are now on question No. 343.

[*The questioner Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar was absent*]

Schemes/projects implemented in Gujarat

*343. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes/projects implemented or under implementation by the Ministry during the last three years in Gujarat;
- (b) the quantum of funds allocated in this regard;
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey for continuous rising of sea-level in the coastal areas of the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH):
(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The ministry has taken up the following initiatives in Gujarat during the last three years though the ministry doesn't have any specific Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for implementation in Gujarat: