

A departmental investigation was conducted by FCI's Regional Office, Lucknow and based on their findings, following disciplinary action was taken against officials involved:

1. Major penalty chargesheet has been issued against 2 Category-II Officers.
2. Major chargesheet is under process against 2 Category-II Officers and 10 Category-III Officers.
3. FIR has been lodged on 1.6.2012 against 12 Officers responsible for theft/loss.
4. Show Cause Notices have been issued to 3 Category-I Officers and 1 Category-II Officer.

(c) and (d) Independent Chartered Accountant Firms have been engaged by FCI for physical verification of stocks in various FCI godowns in Uttar Pradesh.

Export of wheat

†2359. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to export wheat to western countries including Iran;

(b) if so, whether Iran has expressed satisfaction over the quality of Indian wheat, after it imposed a ban on import of Indian wheat in 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has assessed any adverse effect on the allocation of wheat to Public Distribution System due to export of wheat from Government stock; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for export of wheat to Iran and other middle east countries.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Iran Plant Protection Authority has phyto-sanitary restrictions on import of wheat with presence of 'Karnal Bunt'. The Indian wheat also has traces of Karnal Bunt in some regions. An Iranian delegation consisting of experts from its laboratories visited various States in India to examine the quality of wheat. We are yet to hear from them.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Since sufficient stocks of foodgrains (wheat and non-basmati rice) far in excess of buffer norm/strategic reserve are available in Central Pool, the proposed export of wheat from Government stock would not affect the allocation under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). The decision to export 2 million tons of wheat from Central Pool stocks has been taken by the Government after allocating additional quantity of foodgrains of 5 million tons for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, 6 million tons for Above Poverty Line (APL) families and 3 million tons for Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for domestic consumption.

Creation of adequate storage facilities

2360. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to create adequate storage facilities for foodgrains, keeping in view the future estimate of production of various agricultural commodities, as currently due to non availability of sufficient storage facilities, foodgrains are destroyed in rainy season which is shameful, as very tough hard work of farmers are going in drain;

(b) how much proper storage facilities are being added by FCI in Gujarat in the coming five years; and

(c) what action has been taken by FCI to renovate existing godowns of FCI in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total storage capacity available with FCI and State agencies as on 01.08.2012 is 714.14 lakh MTs against the current central pool stocks of foodgrains of about 760 lakh MTs. However, to increase covered storage capacity, the Government formulated the Private Entrepreneur's Guarantee (PEG) Scheme in 2008. Under this Scheme, a capacity of 181.08 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations.