

- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials, such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in FCI godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover And Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First In First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

Lack of warehousing and godown facilities

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that, on account of lack of warehousing and godown facilities, a good amount of food is wasted in the open;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that India ranks 67th among 81 countries in the 2011 Global Hunger Index, prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute;
- (c) whether mountains of grains continue to rot in godowns while more recently irate farmers had thrown potatoes on the roads in certain regions of the country;
- (d) if so, whether it is not desirable to open up adequate warehousing facilities under PPP mode, in such a situation; and

(e) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address the above issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir, foodgrains are normally stored under covered storage and sometimes under temporary Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage in the open on raised concrete plinths and stacks are covered with low density polyethylene (LDPE) covers. Only 219.39 tonnes of foodgrains kept in CAP storage with Food Corporation of India (FCI) accrued as damaged/non-issuable during 2012-13 (upto January, 2013).

(b) Global Hunger Index (GHI) is brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its report published every year. In the report of the GHI brought out in October, 2011, India ranks 67 out of 81 countries. However, in its latest report published in October, 2012, India is ranked at 65 out of 120 countries. 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. Also this report is partly based on outdated data and findings are neither test checked nor validated in the field.

(c) No, Sir. As a result of constant monitoring, the accrual of damaged foodgrains in FCI, which was 1.35 lakh tonnes in 2002-03 has come down to 3338 tonnes during 2011-12. Regarding the dumping of potatoes on the roads by the farmers, 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 & 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.

(d) and (e) Under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, implemented by the FCI an additional capacity of 181.08 lakh tonnes has been approved for construction of godowns at various locations through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations in 19 States. Further, additional capacities of 14.35 lakh tonnes for Uttar Pradesh and 2 lakh tonnes in silos have been sanctioned for West Bengal. The Government has also approved creation of a capacity of 20 lakh ton in silos within the overall storage requirements of FCI under the Public Private Partnership

(PPP) mode. Besides, this Department has also finalised a plan scheme for creation of total additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tonnes in the North East (NE) States through FCI.

Further, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under 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 include setting up of cold storages. 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 & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and National Cooperative Development Corporation are also implementing schemes for development of cold chain.

Pendency of cases in consumer courts

657. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 3.5 lakh cases are pending in various consumer courts in the country;
- (b) the details of cases pending in National/States/district courts, State-wise and District-wise;
- (c) what are the reasons for this huge pendency in consumer courts; and
- (d) what remedial measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to clear the pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) Yes, Sir. 3,52,724 cases are pending in various Consumer Fora out of which 94,330 cases are pending in State Commissions and 2,47,733 cases are pending in District Fora.

(b) State-wise details of pending cases in National Commission and State Commissions is given in Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise details of pending cases in District Fora is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The pendency in Consumer Fora is due to various reasons such as increased number of cases caused by growing Consumers' awareness, strict implementation of due process of adjudication, scope for multiple appeals and vacancy of incumbents in certain States/UTs.