

Damage of foodgrains due to shortage of godowns

703. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement, availability and present stock of foodgrains in the country, including Telengana and Andhra Pradesh States;

(b) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are lost during storage, transit and due to other reasons;

(c) if so, the measures taken to minimize such losses;

(d) whether it is also a fact that shortage of godowns is causing more damage to foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government to provide sufficient storage godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the estimated requirement of foodgrains is 614.3 lakh tons for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.11.2014 was 437.49 lakh tons.

(b) and (c) Due to driage in moisture content and operational factors, some foodgrains are lost during storage and transit. Government has taken various measure to prevent storage and transit losses such as construction of scientific storage, movement of foodgrains in covered wagons, loading in standardized bags, proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Shortage of covered godowns for foodgrains

704. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity for storage of central stock foodgrains as on 31st October, 2014; and

(b) the measure taken by Government to address the shortage of covered godown space ?