

(b) if so, how the Ministry is planning to bridge the demand-supply gap of pulses in the country in 2015-16 in view of global supply constraints?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per ASSOCHAM's study, production of pulses during 2015-16 is likely to be 17 million tonnes as against 17.20 million tonne in 2014-15. It also suggested that 10.1 million tonnes of pulses will have to be imported to meet the rising demand.

(b) To bridge the demand-supply gap of pulses, the Government has enhanced Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of pulses to incentivize farmers to increase production and has also decided to create a buffer stock of pulses through procurement by Govt. agencies like FCI, NAFED and SFAC. This is in addition to other measures already taken like including extension of zero import duty on pulses, ban on export of pulses with exceptions, imposition of stock limit on pulses, suspension of future trading in Urad and Tur, action against black-marketing and hoarding, etc. would also facilitate in bridging the demand-supply gap.

Improper storage of foodgrains

†724. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of decaying of different foodgrains kept in the godowns of the country during the last five years;

(b) whether any action has been taken against any officials in this regard;

(c) whether Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has stated in its report-' The state of food insecurity in the world, 2015 that the number of persons facing hunger is higher in India than China; and

(d) if so, whether it is appropriate that on the one hand the foodgrains decay due to the improper storage and on the other hand, people starve?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Details of damage foodgrains accrued during the last five years and current year in the godowns of FCI is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes Sir, number of officers/officials against whom action taken for damage of foodgrains due to various reasons during the last five years and current year are as under:

Year	Number of officers/officials against whom action taken
2010-11	20
2011-12	19
2012-13	15
2013-14	50
2014-15	77
2015-16 (Till Oct, 2015)	24

(c) As per statistics provided in the report “The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2015” the number of persons facing hunger in India is higher than china.

(d) It is not correct to say that on one hand foodgrains decay due to improper storage and on the other hand people starve. Central Pool foodgrains are stored in scientific godowns and scientific code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed but inspite of all precautions some quantity may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest’s attack, leakages in godowns, exposure to rains, floods etc. The percentage of damaged foodgrains has reduced to only 0.01% of the total offtake under central pool during 2015-16 (upto 1.11.2015). National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 has been enacted to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. This helps in checking the hunger or starvation.

Statement

Details of accrual of damaged foodgrains in FCI, off-take quantity excluding decentralised procuring (DCP) states & % damaged foodgrain W. R.T. Offtake foodgrain

Year	Commodity	Accrued Quantity of Damaged foodgrains (in lakh tons)	Off-take quantity excluding DCP States (in lakh tons)	% Damaged foodgrains against off- take quantity
2010-11	Wheat	0.02	209.61	0.01
	Rice*	0.04	222.46	0.02
	TOTAL	0.06	432.07	0.01
2011-12	Wheat	0.02	219.95	0.01
	Rice	0.01	253.64	0.00
	TOTAL	0.03	473.59	0.01
2012-13	Wheat	0.02	299.17	0.01
	Rice	0.01	253.43	0.00
	TOTAL	0.03	552.60	0.01
2013-14	Wheat	0.13	281.79	0.05
	Rice	0.11	241.37	0.05
	TOTAL	0.25	523.16	0.05
2014-15	Wheat	0.07	241.35	0.03
	Rice	0.12	260.40	0.05
	TOTAL	0.19	501.75	0.04
2015-16 (As on 1.11.2015)	Wheat	0.01	130.91	0.01
	Rice	0.02	118.32	0.02
	TOTAL	0.03	249.23	0.01

Remarks: * including 0.02 Lakh Tons damaged coarse grains.