

Promoting traditional method of storage of foodgrains

1353. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent loss of foodgrains in the country during storage and transit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also taking steps to promote the traditional method of storage of foodgrains within the vicinity of farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has taken various steps to prevent loss of foodgrains during storage and transit. The details on the steps adopted to prevent loss of foodgrains during storage and transit are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare through Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) promotes creation of scientific storage capacity in rural areas for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs etc. to reduce post harvest and handling losses.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement***Steps Taken by the Government to Prevent Loss of Foodgrains******During Storage and Transit*****I. During Storage:**

The following steps were taken by the Government to prevent the loss of foodgrains during storage:—

- (i) All godowns are constructed on scientific lines to make them rodent proof by having proper height and damp proof by providing pucca floor plinth.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.

- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (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 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 and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
 - (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant
 - (b) Monthly inspection by Manager (QC)
 - (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM (QC)
 - (d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs Squads.
- (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.

II. During Transit:

- (i) After the placement of rake each wagon is inspected for fitness on certain parameters *i.e.* no damage in wagon floor, roof and walls, no dust is accumulated on floor of wagon and wagon doors are properly closing. In case, if any wagon is found unfit on above said parameters then it is declared unfit for loading and rejected.

- (ii) Each wagon is properly cleaned for removal of any accumulated dust like cement, fertilizer or coal which may damage foodgrains.
- (iii) LDPE sheets are laid on wagon floor before loading of foodgrain bags.
- (iv) Wagons doors are double sealed by Railway and FCI to avoid any outside impact on the foodgrain bags.
- (v) Tarpaulins sheet spread on platform at the time of loading/unloading of stocks from the wagons to avoid contamination of spillages. Efforts are being continuously made to reduce the transit damage.
- (vi) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (vii) The dispatching Regions have been instructed to use polythene sheet in the spoiled railway wagons to retrieve the spilled-over grains.
- (viii) Identification of vulnerable points both at dispatching and recipient centers for intensive checking is being done on continuous basis by the GM Regions and ED Zones. Special squad checking at selected rail heads and destination/dispatch centers is undertaken periodically at the identified centers.

Establishing working standard laboratories in Kerala

1354. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Decentralized Paddy Procurement Scheme is withdrawn by Central Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from Kerala Government to re-fix the out-turn ratio from 68 per cent to 64 per cent, if so, details and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any proposal from Government of Kerala has been received to establish working standard laboratories in Kollam and Kottayam; and

(d) if so, the details of fund allocated for the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) A request has been received from Kerala Government to re-fix the out-turn