

Wastage of foodgrains

740. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data on wastage of foodgrains in Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) warehouses in each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons identified for wastage of foodgrains in the warehouses and the immediate steps which have been initiated to restrict the wastage of foodgrains in future; and

(d) whether Government proposes to upgrade the existing storage system and construct new warehouses using scientific methodology to check the wastage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) The details on the quantity of foodgrains which got damaged in godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) (owned and hired) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) during last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Damaged Foodgrains (in MTs)
1.	2017-18	2663.486
2.	2018-19	5213.362
3.	2019-20	1930.362

(c) Procured foodgrains are stored in a scientific manner in covered godowns and in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. Scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed during storage. The main reason for accrual of damaged foodgrains is due to natural calamities *i.e.* rain/cyclone/flood.

The details of steps taken by the Government to avoid damage of foodgrains during storage are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Depending on the requirement in specific areas and for modernization of the storage facilities, the Government implements the following schemes for construction of storage for Central Pool Stocks in the country:—

1. **Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme:** Under this scheme, a total capacity of 143.91 Lakh MT (LMT) has been created as on 31.08.2020.
2. **Central Sector Scheme:** A total capacity of 1,84,175 MT has been completed by FCI and State Governments during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). This scheme has been extended from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2022. A total capacity of 54,175 MT has been created by FCI and State Governments from 01.04.2017 to 31.08.2020.
3. **Construction of Steel Silos:** In addition to conventional godowns, Government of India, in 2016 has also approved an action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for modernizing storage infrastructure and improving shelf life of stored foodgrains. Against this, as on 28.08.2020, steel silos of 8.25 LMT capacity have been created.
4. **Covered and Plinth (CAP) hiring scheme-2019:** As on 31.08.2020, a total capacity of 7.84 LMT has been taken over under this scheme.

Statement

*Steps taken by the Government for safe storage of procured foodgrains
to reduce damage*

- (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (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.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.
- (xii) Identify and repair all the leakage point in the roof.
- (xiii) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xiv) Ensure no seepage inside the godowns.
- (xv) No clogging up of water in the premises.
- (xvi) Immediate action to segregate and recondition of the stocks whenever it gets affected.