

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2024

INCOMPLETE GODOWN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

842 SHRI BEEDHA MASTHAN RAO YADAV:

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

- (a) the reasons for incompleteness of physical and financial targets for construction of godowns during 2020-2024, as set by the Ministry;
- (b) the measures Ministry or Food Corporation of India (FCI) has adopted to expedite completion of these projects;
- (c) whether they plan to construct mini godowns in different areas, as recommended by Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution;
- (d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has looked into ways for FCI to utilise its own storage capacity to maximum to save funds spent on renting storage space as per recommendations of Committee?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): Department of Food & Public Distribution is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Storage & Godowns" for construction of godowns with focus on augmenting capacity in the North Eastern Region (NER) alongwith few other States.

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The reasons for non-completion of physical and financial targets for construction of godowns by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during 2020-2024 are as given below:

- (i) Difficult geographical location,
- (ii) Unfavorable terrain,
- (iii) Excessive rainfall,
- (iv) Delay in handing over of Land parcels to FCI by different State Governments of North East.
- (iv) Covid pandemic for year 2020-2021 and subsequent restrictions by state government for transportation of manpower and bringing of materials to site etc.

For monitoring the projects under the Central Sector Scheme, periodic meetings are conducted by Ministry with Engineering Officers of FCI Headquarters and State Governments.

Additionally, review meeting are conducted by FCI to ascertain the progress of work at these locations on monthly basis during the Monthly Performance Review (MPR) Meeting.

Further, Executive Director (ED) (Engg), / General Manager (GM) (Engg), FCI Headquarters also conduct review meetings with the Zonal Offices and Regional Offices to check the progress of the work and sort out any road block and hindrance for smooth progress of work.

(c) & (d): Food Corporation of India (FCI) mainly stores food grains (wheat & rice) after procurement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and for maintaining buffer stock, to ensure food security in the country.

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Requirement of Storage capacity in FCI depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and Public Distribution System (PDS) operations for food grains (Rice and Wheat). FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level:-

1. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode
2. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
3. Central Sector Scheme "Storage & Godowns"
4. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies
5. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)
6. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization

(e): To ensure maximum utilization of owned capacities of Governments, State-wise Capacity utilization is monitored in review meetings of FCI to ensure maximum utilization of FCI owned capacity.
