

Impacts of plastic packing of foodgrains

925. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted any research study on the effects of plastic as a packaging material for foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the study also included packaging of foodgrains and any poisoning effect in plastic sacks for long durations under different climatic and weather conditions;

(c) what was the in depth analysis of any such study conducted by Government; and

(d) whether Government openly state that there would be no poisoning of foodgrains due to plastic without conducting such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government had asked the Indian Grain Storage Management & Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur, which is a Government of India institution to conduct a study on the suitability of PP-HDPE bags for the storage of foodgrains. Though the study did not specifically include the poisoning effect of plastic sacks on foodgrains due to prolonged storage under different climatic and weather conditions, based on the study, it has been observed that PP/HDPE bags are suitable for the storage of foodgrains in commercial godowns.

(d) The Directorate General of Health Services has informed that plastic bags manufactured out of the plastic packaging materials enlisted under PFA Rules, 1955 are safe to pack foodgrains and sugar.

Additional storage facilities during Tenth Plan

926. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the storage capacity created by Government in every State during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the storage facilities available in some of the States and particularly in Orissa are not adequate; and

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by Government to create additional storage facilities during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has created a storage capacity of 3.96 lakh MT and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has created a storage capacity of 3.06 lakh MT during the 9th Five Year Plan. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) As on 30.9.2002, FCI had a total storage capacity of 353.10 lakh MT (owned/hired & covered & CAP) against which stock held was 242.80 lakh MT. The storage capacity held by FCI in Orissa as on 30.9.2002 was 5.91 lakh MT with 74% utilization only. Thus, the storage capacity is presently adequate.

(c) FCI proposed to create additional storage capacity of 6.42 lakh MT and CWC propose to create additional storage capacity of 15 lakh MT during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement

State-wise capacity created during Ninth Five Year Plan

(figures in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	States	Storage capacity created by CWC	Storage Capacity created by FCI
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.05	0.60
2.	Andaman	—	0.03
3.	Bihar	0.04	0.03
4.	Gujarat	0.63	0.20
5.	Goa	0.10	—
6.	Haryana	1.83	0.10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	0.02
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	0.08

S.No.	States	Storage capacity created by CWC	Storage Capacity created by FCI
9.	Karnataka	0.86	0.73
10.	Kerala	0.33	0.40
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.75	0.15
12.	Maharashtra	0.68	0.15
13.	Meghalaya	—	0.04
14.	Nagaland	—	0.10
15.	Orissa	0.30	0.25
16.	Punjab	1.65	0.48
17.	Rajasthan	0.67	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	0.61	0.10
19.	Tripura	—	0.05
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1.79	0.45
21.	West Bengal	0.77	—
TOTAL:		13.06	3.96

Poor quality of foodgrains for PDS

927. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any complaint received recently regarding allocation of poor quality of foodgrains, under various schemes of PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding issue of inferior quality of foodgrains under PDS were received from some States. Governments of Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra have complained about issue of poor quality of "lustre lost" wheat under PDS and Governments of Karnataka and Kerala had complained about the issue of poor quality of rice under various schemes.