

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
ROTTENING OF FOODGRAINS IN PUNJAB .

1116

Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

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

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- (a) whether it is a fact that 50,000 tonnes of foodgrains are inadvertently rotting in Punjab, which was sufficient to feed 7.1 million persons for a month;
- (b) if so, whether it is a sudden happening or indifferent attitude of the supervisory personnel at warehousing sites; and
- (c) whether the Supreme Court had advised Government to distribute such stocks amongst poverty-stricken persons rather than allow it being rotten in godowns?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b) As reported by FCI a quantity of 59174 tons of wheat is lying as non-issuable with State agencies of Punjab Government as on 1-3-2011. This includes non-issuable wheat of crop years from 2005-06 to 2010-11. Besides, a quantity of 9.9 tons non-issuable wheat of crop years 2009-10 and 2010-11 is also available in FCI godowns in Punjab as on 1-3-2011.

Non-issuable wheat has not suddenly accrued but it has accumulated over a period from 2005-06 to 2010-11. During this period State Govt. agencies of Punjab have procured 461 lakh tons of wheat for Central Pool and damaged/non-issuable wheat is 0.12% of the total procured wheat. In case of FCI godowns, 8.4 tons of damaged wheat is at Talwandi Sabbo Depot, for which action has been taken against delinquent staff. 1.5 ton damaged wheat available at Khanauri Depot is due to sinking of plinths for which recovery of Rs.24750/- has been made from the plinth owner.

(c) Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed concern on reports of damaged central pool foodgrains and suggested to Government to take some long term and short term measures. While adequate storage facilities be created in the long term, increase in quantum of food supplies to BPL population and distribution of foodgrains to deserving population at very low cost or no cost may be taken up in the short term. Government has taken steps accordingly.