

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2018

REQUIREMENT OF GODOWNS FOR FOODGRAINS

*120. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

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

- (a) the capacity of godowns, in metric tonnes, required in the country to store the foodgrains produced in the country safely;
- (b) the capacity of godowns, in metric tonnes, in the country which are in possession of the Government as on date;
- (c) whether there is any plan of the Government to keep the foodgrains cent per cent safe in the godowns; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.07.2018 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

(a) & (b): On the basis of peak stock requirement during normal procurement season, the overall storage capacity required for central pool food grains in the country is about 650 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT). Against this, the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Agencies (both owned and hired capacity), is 855.98 LMT as on 30.06.2018 comprising 724.74 LMT in covered godowns and 131.24 LMT in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. As such, there is sufficient capacity for storage of central pool foodgrains at the national level.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The central agencies namely FCI and CWC follow their own prescribed construction design for godowns in order to ensure that foodgrains are protected from natural calamities like rains and floods. Further, only scientifically constructed godowns are hired from private parties. In addition, FCI takes the following steps to avoid damage to foodgrains:

- (i) Foodgrains are stored in scientifically constructed godowns. Some foodgrains are stored for short periods in CAP storage in peak procurement season.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to foodgrains.
- (iii) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets etc. are provided for control of insects & pests in all godowns.
- (iv) Regular periodic inspections of stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff.
- (v) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid storage of foodgrains of older vintage in godowns.
- (vi) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (vii) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.
