

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2018

SHORTAGE OF STORAGE FACILITIES FOR WHEAT

1191. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of storage facilities, the wheat purchased by Government is being apprehended to get wet in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step to save wheat from getting wet; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by Government and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): 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.

Normally, peak stock of foodgrains in the central pool occurs around 1st June of every year. Total storage capacity available with FCI and State Agencies as on 1st June during the last three years with corresponding stock position in central pool is given below:

(Fig. in Lakh MT)

As on	Storage capacity owned by FCI	Storage capacity hired by FCI	Storage capacity with State agencies	Total Storage capacity	Stock position
01.06.2016	154.15	208.32	449.47	811.94	534.29
01.06.2017	154.25	207.45	421.47	783.17	555.40
01.06.2018	154.44	226.62	474.92	855.98	680.25

Thus, on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country and no damage can be directly attributed to lack of adequate storage space

(b) & (c): The central agencies namely FCI, CWC and State Agencies follow the prescribed construction design for godowns in order to ensure that foodgrains are protected from natural calamities like rains and floods. Similarly, 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.

Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.
