

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2623
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023

FOODGRAIN GODOWNS IN EACH BLOCK

2623 SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the lack of storage and damage of foodgrains is the main cause for distress sales by farmers;
- (b) whether Government proposes to build foodgrain godowns in each block, in the country, to raise India's foodgrain storage capacity in the co-operative sector;
- (c) whether the farmers will be able to get easy loans against their foodgrain stocks from co-operative societies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the time frame for its implementation?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): No, Sir. As on 01.07.2023, the total covered capacity available for keeping the Central Pool Stock with Food Corporation of India (FCI) & State agencies is 733.12 LMT (FCI owned & hired 371.94 LMT + State agencies 361.19 LMT) against stock position of 554.94 LMT.

There exists a transparent & uniform policy for procurement by Govt. Agencies across the country. Under this policy, food grains offered by farmers within the stipulated procurement period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Govt. agencies including FCI, for central pool.

However, if any producer/ farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.

(b) to (d): Ministry of Cooperation on 31.05.2023 has approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, to be rolled out as a Pilot Project, for setting up decentralized food grain storage capacity through creation of various agri infrastructure at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level, including warehouses, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. by leveraging the ‘whole-of-Government’ approach. The Project is being implemented by utilizing the approved outlays of various Government of India (GoI) schemes, viz. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund(AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for creation/ modernization of infrastructure facilities at PACS level.
