

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2435
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024

PROTECTION OF FOOD GRAINS

2435 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government framed guidelines for disposal of non-usable and damaged food grains in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the list of the quantum of food grains which are declared as non-usable/damaged during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government would devise a special policy to safeguard the food grains kept in the FCI godowns, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government would give special package for construction of food grains storage godowns in order to protect the food grains?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Yes Sir, Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued detailed guidelines for disposal of non – issuable damaged food grains held by the State/ UT Governments for central pool. As per guidelines, joint technical committee including representatives of FCI and State Government at district level checks such non-issuable stocks and upon finding them damaged, declares the stock as damaged.

The damaged food grains are disposed off for consumption of animal feed, industrial use and for use as manure. Damaged food grains held by State/UT Government and its agencies are disposed off at or above the reserve price fixed as per the guidelines through tender/auction to the bonafide manufacturer/consumer of feed, including the State Government and its Agencies having similar facilities. The entire exercise of disposal of damaged food grains should be completed within a period of 6 months from the date of declaration of stock as damaged.

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The damaged food grains held by FCI is disposed off following a well defined mechanism starting with three tier categorization of damaged food grain at Depot level, Regional level, Zonal level. The stock of damaged food grains accrued upto 500 MT can be disposed off under Rate Running Contract (RRC) at the regional level and in case of accrual beyond 500 MT, the stock is to be disposed off through tenders only.

Bonafide registered parties with FCI/ State Governments, who are having valid Manufacturing Unit for Feed stocks/ Industrial use are eligible to purchase Damaged Food Grain from FCI with eligibility to purchase such stock. Release of stocks is subject to an undertaking by the parties that the damaged stock will not be used for human consumption.

(b): FCI mainly deals with Wheat, Rice and Paddy commodities of food grains. Statement showing quantity of total non-issuable/damaged food grains in FCI from FY 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as under:

(figures in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

YEAR	Non-Issuable Food grains accrued	Off-take Quantity	% of Non-Issuable Foodgrains against Off-take Quantity
2019-20	0.019	455.130	0.004
2020-21	0.018	688.566	0.003
2021-22	0.017	766.081	0.002
2022-23	0.016	675.826	0.002
2023-24	0.103	470.719	0.022

(c): Steps taken by FCI to safeguard the foodgrains kept in the FCI godowns are indicated in 'Annexure'.

(d): FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level:

- i. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode
- ii. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme

- iii. Central Sector Scheme “Storage & Godowns”
- iv. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies
- v. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)
- vi. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization

Under the Central Sector Scheme (2017-2025), a financial outlay of Rs. 379.50 Cr (for North-East Regions) and Rs. 104.58 Cr (for Other than North-East Regions) has been approved.

In order to create storage capacity in Public Private Partnership mode and to encourage investor in the scheme, FCI gives guaranteed rent discovered in open tender process for a period of 10 years.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2435 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2024 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

Steps taken by FCI to prevent wastage of foodgrains:-

- (i) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iii) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (iv) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (v) Effective rat control measures are taken.
- (vi) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels.
- (vii) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (viii) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (ix) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages. In case any negligence is reported suitable action is taken against officers / officials found responsible.
- (x) Identify & repair all the leakage point in the roof is done periodically.
- (xi) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xii) Ensure no seepage inside the godowns.
- (xiii) No clogging up of water in the premises.
