

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 321
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025

DELAYS IN AUGMENTING FOOD GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY

321 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether Government acknowledges that challenges such as land acquisition, difficult terrain, inclement weather and lack of proposals from States/UTs have led to delays in augmenting food grain storage capacity and strengthening Public Distribution System (PDS) operations;
- (b) whether Government has considered setting key performance indicators to assess fund utilization and scheme effectiveness, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial proposals pending from States/UTs and the steps taken to expedite approvals; and
- (d) the measures undertaken to ensure full utilization of allocated funds for food storage and PDS enhancement within the financial year?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(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. 321 FOR ANSWER ON 01.04.2025 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a) to (d): Government of India through Food Corporation of India (FCI) mainly stores food grains (wheat & rice) after procurement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and for maintaining buffer stock, to ensure food security in the country. As on 01.02.2025, total Covered Storage Capacity available with FCI and State agencies throughout the country for storage of Central Pool foodgrain stock is 806.94 Lakh MT.

Requirement of Storage capacity in FCI depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and Public Distribution System (PDS) operations for food grains (Rice and Wheat). FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level:-

1. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode
2. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
3. Central Sector Scheme "Storage & Godowns"
4. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies
5. Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)
6. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization

Certain, North Eastern States at times have challenges due to non-availability of suitable land parcel, difficult terrain and inclement weather, which are resolved with coordination.

The various projects of construction of godowns and silos are monitored by Food Corporation of India (FCI) at various levels from Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD), Executive Directors (ED), ED (Zones) and General Managers (GM) /GM(Regions) by arranging regular meetings in Headquarters as well as in North Eastern States with the Chief Secretaries or other Senior officers of the State Govt. FCI also pursues with Central/State Govt. executing agencies by following up at the level of C&MD and EDs.

In addition, this Department also monitors the progress with the State Governments for unresolved issues like land acquisition. Regular review meetings are being taken to monitor the progress of implementation of these schemes.

Further, regarding PDS operations, as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 the responsibility for implementation and monitoring of the schemes of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, and their own schemes, for ensuring food security to the targeted beneficiaries in their State lies with the concerned State Governments. For ensuring transparency and proper functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System and accountability of the functionaries in such system, every State Government shall set up Vigilance Committees as specified in the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as amended from time to time, at the State, District, Block and Fair Price Shop levels. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to maintain a robust public distribution system to ensure smooth distribution of food grains to the targeted beneficiaries and to avoid any diversion of subsidized food grains to open market.
