

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

DAMAGED WHEAT IN PUNJAB

1838. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that more than 4.72 lakh tonnes of wheat valued at Rs. 700.30 crore got damaged in Punjab till March, 2016 due to delay in implementation of the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme which was expected to increase the storage capacity of foodgrains in the State;
- (b) whether it is also true that the damaged wheat was declared as non-issuable for public distribution as it was stored in open areas by the Food Corporation of India; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

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

---

(a): A quantity of 4.72 lakh ton non-issuable/damaged foodgrain stocks of various crop years lying with State agencies of Punjab in Covered & Plinth (CAP) storage for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016, was mainly due to improper upkeep of stocks.

Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme was introduced on 28.07.2008 for augmentation of storage capacity to meet the procurement and Public Distribution System (PDS) needs of the States. Initially there was lukewarm response of the scheme. Tenders were floated several times and the efforts were continued unabatedly. Delay was due to poor response of the parties against the tenders and higher rates quoted. Considering the poor response, the period of guaranteed hiring was increased initially from 5 years to 7 years and later on to 10 years. In view of it, maximum capacity of 38.84 lakh ton was awarded in 2011-12 in Punjab which was completed in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The capacity of PEG godowns taken over by FCI was 40.88 lakh ton. These capacities played vital role in subsequently reducing the wheat stock in CAP/Kacha Plinth/Mandies etc in Punjab.

(b) & (c): Does not arise, as the damaged stock of foodgrains as mentioned at (a) above, was not taken over by Food Corporation of India.

\*\*\*\*