

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2018
FOODGRAINS PRESERVATION/STORAGE

2118. SHRI B.V. NAIK:
SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to introduce state-of-the-art technology in foodgrains preservation and protection, distribution and supply to the poorest people in rural/remote areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the methods adopted by the Government to minimise wastage of foodgrains, pulses and other food items due to poor storage facilities, lack of technology, rotting and destruction by pests and rats etc.; and
- (c) the funds allocated to Karnataka for strengthening and development of the Central godowns for CWC and FCI as well as the godowns of State/private sector for the last three financial years?

A N S W E R

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

(a) Yes Madam, Government is deploying latest scientific technology in foodgrain preservation and distribution of foodgrain through Public Distribution System (PDS).

- (i) As a part of modernization of storage facilities mechanized steel silos with bulk handling facilities are ensuring better preservation of foodgrains thereby enhancing its shelf life. Foodgrains stored in silos are transported in bulk, reduce losses due to theft and pilferage. A capacity of 6.25 lakh tonnes silos has been created as on 30.06.2018.
- (ii) To bring all operations of FCI godowns online, to check leakage and automate operations at the depot level, "Depot Online" system has been launched, which is operational at 530 depots as on 16.07.2018.
- (iii) As a pilot project, 35 computerized rice analyzers have been installed in 08 procuring regions thereby enhancing transparency in food grain procurement and to minimize human error.

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- (iv) With a view to improve efficiency in Public Distribution System and address problem like leakages and bogus ration cards, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries' database and ration cards have been completely digitized in all States/ Union Territories (UTs).
- (v) Transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in 30 States/ UTs.
- (vi) Online allocation has been implemented in 30 States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 21 States/UTs.
- (vii) More than 3.33 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been automated so far across the country.

(b) Steps taken by the government for safe storage to avoid damage are annexed.

(c): No funds are allocated by the Union Government to Karnataka for strengthening and development of Central godowns for Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as the godowns of State/private sector. FCI & CWC carry out regular maintenance work in their godowns using own funds. Funds allocated by FCI and CWC for strengthening and development of godowns in Karnataka are as under:

Figures in Rs. Lakhs

Year	FCI	CWC
2015-16	1055	1236.86
2016-17	880	732.23
2017-18	756	715.91

Ministry of Agriculture through Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) promotes creation of scientific storage capacity for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs etc. across the country including rural/remote areas to reduce post harvest and handling losses.

Since inception (01.04.2001) of the scheme, a subsidy of Rs. 18601.19 Lakh has been released to Karnataka state for storage infrastructure projects up to 31.03.2018.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2118 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2018 IN LOK SABHA.

STEPS TAKEN TO AVOID DAMAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN STORAGE ARE AS UNDER:

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