

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1733
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd JULY, 2019

STARVATION DEATHS

1733. SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) the number of persons who died due to starvation during the last three years, year-wise, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the amount of foodgrains wasted during the said period, year-wise, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the reasons for wastage of the foodgrains;
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to substantially reduce this wastage; and
- (e) the impact of these steps on the ground, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a): No State Government/UT Administration has reported any incidence of death due to starvation in the country.

(b) & (c): The grain available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) is stored and preserved properly. Food grains are perishable commodity and FCI is storing/handling large quantities of foodgrains over long periods. Out of these Stocks, some quantities become Non-issuable/rotten due to various reasons like:

- i. Due to Natural Calamities like Cyclone/flood damages.
- ii. Transit damages viz enroute damage in wagon/truck due to contamination, wagon roof leakage etc.

iii. In some cases due to negligence of officials/ officers, for which suitable disciplinary action against defaulters, where ever found guilty, are invariably taken.

The details of the amount of foodgrains damaged during the last 3 years and current year in FCI, state-wise is given at Annexure-A.

(d): Against total stocks of 741.41 LMT (as on 01.06.2019), the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Agencies (both owned and hired capacity), is 862.45 LMT (as on 31.05.2019) comprising 739.76 LMT in covered godowns and 122.69 LMT in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage. As such, there is sufficient capacity for storage of central pool foodgrains at the national level.

However, depending on requirement in specific areas and for modernization of storage facilities, Government implements the following schemes for construction of godowns and silos in the country for central pool stock of foodgrains:

- i. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme: Under this Scheme, which was formulated in 2008, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Government Agencies for guaranteed hiring by Food Corporation of India (FCI). A capacity of 142.62 Lakh MT (LMT) has been created as on 31.05.2019. Under this scheme, no funds are allocated by Government for construction of godowns and full investment is done by the private parties/CWC/State Agencies. After a godown is constructed and taken over by FCI, storage charges are paid to the investor for the guaranteed period of 9/10 years irrespective of the quantum of foodgrains stored.
- ii. Central Sector Scheme (erstwhile Plan Scheme): This scheme is implemented in the North Eastern States along with a few other States. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. A total capacity of 1,84,175 MT has been completed by FCI and State Governments during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). This scheme has been extended for 3 years from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020. A total capacity of 49,375 MT has been created by FCI & State Governments from 01.04.2017 to 31.05.2019.
- iii. Construction of Steel Silos: In addition to conventional godowns, Government of India has also approved an action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for modernizing storage infrastructure and improving shelf life of stored foodgrains. Against this, as on 31.05.2019, steel silos of 6.75 LMT capacity have been created.

Steps taken by FCI to minimize damage of foodgrains are at Annexure-B.

(e): There is a decreasing trend in accrual of damage foodgrains in FCI from 2016-17 to 2019-20 which is due to adopting various practices given at point no (d) above.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1733 DUE FOR ANSWERED ON 02.07.2019 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Region-wise foodgrains stock accrued as Non-Issuable (damaged) in FCI from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (as on 31.05.19) (Fig. in tonnes)					
S. No.	Region	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (31.05.19)
1	Bihar	0	1617	3568	0
2	Jharkhand	0	45	31	0
3	Odisha	1	0	2	0
4	West Bengal	0	0	12	0
5	Assam	205	328	868	0
6	NEF	105	92	58	19
7	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
8	Nagaland	3	0	0	0
9	Manipur	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	12	14	2	0
11	Haryana	0	0	0	0
12	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
13	J & K	0	0	0	0
14	Punjab	8	211	318	2
15	Rajasthan	125	1	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	48	243	116	8
17	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0
18	Andhra Pradesh	6	0	0	0
19	Kerala	88	2	113	0
20	Karnataka	13	75	53	0
21	Tamil Nadu	66	16	6	0
22	Gujarat	119	6	19	0
23	Maharashtra	7963	15	35	3
24	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	5	0
25	Chhattisgarh	12	0	7	0
Total		8776	2663	5213	33

(Figs. are rounded off)

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1733 DUE FOR ANSWERED ON 02.07.2019 IN THE LOK SABHA.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE DAMAGE/WASTAGE OF FOODGRAINS DURING STORAGE

Foodgrains procured by Food Corporation of India and all State Govts./Agencies for central pool are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (cover and plinth). During storage, following steps are taken for safe storage of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are taken.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) 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. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
 - a. Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.
 - b. Monthly inspection by Manager(QC).
 - c. Quarterly inspection by AGM(QC).
 - d. Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs. Squads.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.
- (xii) Leakage point in the roof of godowns are regularly identified and repaired.
- (xiii) Regular cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xiv) Efforts are made to ensure that there are no seepages inside the godowns.
- (xv) Efforts are also made to ensure that there is no clogging up of water in the premises of the godowns.
- (xvi) Immediate actions are taken to segregate & recondition of the stocks whenever it gets affected.
