

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH JULY, 2019

STORAGE OF ROTTEN FOODGRAINS IN FCI GODOWNS

3664. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

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 is aware that in many godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) rotten foodgrains are stored for years without any movement;
- (b) whether the Government has asked the FCI to come out with details of such rotten foodgrain stores in their godowns across the country with reasons, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the agricultural produce storage facilities in view of the rotting away of foodgrains;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken for expansion of storage facilities of Food Corporation of India in various States; and
- (e) if so, 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) & (b): The foodgrains procured for Central Pool and available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are generally stored in a scientific manner in covered godowns, with various preservation measures like fumigation and treatment with pesticides. In spite of all precautions, small quantity of foodgrains may become non-issuable due to various reasons like natural calamities, damages in transit. Out of the quantity of 1165 MT of damaged foodgrains lying with FCI, only 15 MT is more than one year old which could not be disposed off due to reasons that it either fetched lower price than reserve price or did not fetch any rate in the tender sale. Remaining 1150 MT are less than one year old and are being taken up by FCI for sale.

(c): Government monitors and reviews the available storage capacity from time to time taking into consideration of procurement of foodgrains, offtake under Public Distribution System (PDS) and other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Depending upon requirement in specific areas and for modernization of storage facilities, the Government has been implementing the following schemes for construction of godowns and silos in the country for storage of central pool stocks:

- (i) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme,
- (ii) Central Sector scheme and
- (iii) Construction of Steel silos.

The details of the steps taken by FCI for safe storage of foodgrains to avoid rotting are in Annexure.

(d) & (e): FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity in the country and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created under the aforesaid schemes. The total storage capacity available with FCI and State agencies for storage of foodgrain stocks meant for PDS/NFSA (across the country), as on 31.05.2019 is, 862.45 Lakh MT, of which 400.83 LMT is with FCI and 461.62 LMT is hired.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare implements a capital investment subsidy sub-scheme namely "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" under Integrated Scheme for Agricultural marketing (ISAM) with two distinct marketing infrastructure components i.e. (i) Storage Infrastructure in rural area (ii) other than storage infrastructure. Since inception of the scheme and upto 31.03.2019, a total of 38,964 storage infrastructure projects (godowns), with storage capacity of 65.54 million MT were sanctioned under AMI sub-scheme of ISAM.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3664 DUE FOR ANSWERED ON 16.07.2019 IN THE LOK SABHA.

The details of the steps taken by Food Corporation of India for safe storage of foodgrains to avoid rotting of foodgrains are as under:

- (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 used.
- (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) Quaterly 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) Identify & repair all the leakage point in the roof.
- (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.
- (xiv) Immediate action to segregate & recondition of the stocks whenever it gets affected.