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

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.57 TO BE ANSWERED ON $6^{\rm TH}$ DECEMBER, 2023

WASTAGE OF FOODGRAINS DUE TO INADEQUATE STORAGE

†*57. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government for adequate storage of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether the foodgrains storage facility is available only for 57 percent of the total foodgrain production of the country and if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the developed countries have double the grain storage facilities than is required;
- (d) whether every year there has been continuous wastage of foodgrains in the country due to lack of ample storage facilities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the effective measures being taken by the Government to increase the said storage facilities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

⁽a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 57 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Food Corporation of India (FCI) mainly stores wheat & rice after procurement for Public Distribution System (PDS) operations and to maintain buffer stock.

As on 01.11.2023, a quantity of 414.75 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) of stock is stored against the covered storage capacity of 762.49 LMT available with FCI and State agencies for Central Pool, thus sufficient for current needs in this regard.

FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired. The capacities are created / hired through the following schemes:

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

With a view to modernize storage of foodgrains and to ramp-up the storage capacity for foodgrains in India, Department of Food & Public Distribution is undertaking construction of modern silos in PPP mode.

As on 01.11.2023, 5.5 LMT silo capacity is being utilized under circuit model. Railside Silos of 14.75 LMT capacity at 29 locations have been put into operation and silos of 9.0 LMT at 18 locations are under construction. In first phase of Hub and Spoke model, tender for capacity of 34.875 LMT silos at 80 locations have been awarded and Concession Agreements have been signed.

In order to keep storage infrastructure robust and upgraded, approx 180 LMT Covered and Plinth (CAP) has been phased out, which has ruled out any chance of quality issue. Infrastructure of FCI & CWC warehouses have been upgraded and third party assessment & rating of FCI's owned & CWC warehouses have been done.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is implementing sub-scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) across the country. The AMI sub-scheme has been continued /extended up to 31.03.2026 for its implementation.

Since inception of scheme i.e. from 01.04.2001 and up to 30.09.2023, a total of 46,878 storage infrastructure projects (Godowns), with storage capacity of 88.44 Million MT have been sanctioned, under the scheme.

In addition to that, the total storage capacity available with CWC as on 31.10.2023 is 115.66 LMT, out of which 28.43 LMT capacity is being utilized by FCI. During the FY 2022-23, a storage capacity of 2.71 LMT, including for foodgrains has been constructed by CWC and a capacity of 9.31 LMT is planned, during FY 2023-25.

Further, in order to address the shortage of storage capacity for food grains in the country, the Government, on 31.05.2023, has approved the Plan for the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector", to be rolled out as a Pilot Project. The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure at PACS level, including warehouses, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) with the support of NABARD, NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), etc. is implementing the Pilot Project in different States/ UTs. States/ Union Territories and various National Level Federations such as National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) have identified 1,711 PACS to be included in the project.

- (b) & (c): The food-grain production procurement and off take/consumption is spread over the year and goes on simultaneously. So, the net requirement of storage capacity, which depends upon level of procurement, requirements of buffer norms and PDS Operations, is less. The annual procurement under central pool ranges from 750 LMT to 1000 LMT while requirement under NFSA/OWS is around 600 LMT and peak buffer norms are 411.22 LMT. So, existing storage capacity caters to the existing needs.
- (d) & (e): No sir, there is no wastage of food-grains/accrual of Non-Issuable stock due to lack of storage facilities.
