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

# LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1578 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2020

### **INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES**

#### 1578. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

- (a) whether the storage facilities of foodgrains in Government agencies are over flowing;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to provide adequate storage facilities:
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that vegetable prices has risen 60 per cent in the last few months mainly due to inadequate storage facilities; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to control the vegetable prices?

### ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): As on 31.12.2019, against total stocks of 565.11 LMT, the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Agencies (both owned and hired capacity) for Central Pool Stock including Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage was 758.46 LMT.

The Government implements the following schemes for construction of godowns and silos for storage of Central Pool Stocks in the country:

i. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme: Under this Scheme, formulated in 2008, storage capacity is created by private parties, CWC and State Government Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. As on 31.12.2019, a total capacity of 143.63 LMT has been created. 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.

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- ii. Central Sector Scheme (erstwhile Plan Scheme): This scheme is implemented in the North Eastern States along with a few other States. Funds from annual budgetary allocation are released by the Government of India to FCI and also 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 from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2022. A capacity of 51,925 MT has been created by FCI & State Governments from 01.04.2017 to 31.12.2019.
- iii. <u>Construction of Steel Silos</u>: 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. As on 31.12.2019, steel silos of 7.25 LMT capacity have been created.

Further, Government of India has granted in-principle approval for construction of 90 LMT of storage facilities under Covered and Plinth (CAP) hiring Scheme (2019) of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for accommodating the wheat stocks for the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2020-21.

In addition, godowns are hired under Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS) to address immediate/urgent requirement of storage space. Godowns under PWS can be hired after hiring all the capacity available with CWC/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies/PEG capacity available.

(c) and (d): Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) for providing modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along with value chain from farm to market. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm gate at Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure at Central Processing Centre.

Government regularly monitors the prices of onions, potato and tomato, which constitutes 50% of total production of all vegetables in the country and takes following measures from time to time to control the prices of the vegetables:

- (i) Export restriction, increase in export duty as also imposition of minimum export price, imposition of stock limit and action against hoarders.
- (ii) Resorting to and/or facilitating imports.
- (iii) Engaging agencies like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF), Kendriya Bhandar etc. in procurement and distribution/supply to deficit/consuming states at no-profit no-loss basis.
- (iv) Maintenance of buffer stock and its disposal through State Governments, Central/State Agencies as also by sale through open auction.

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