

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2419
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2021**

STORING OF FOODGRAINS

2419. DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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 has taken adequate steps to store, preserve and protect the food grains, pulses, fast perishable items etc., in the country and also to reduce annual wastage of food grains and farm produces due to lack of scientific and proper storing technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the wastage of food grains and farm produce assessed in the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government has invited scientific communities and expertise in building capacity storage facilities to reduce wastage of food grains during storage and transit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated in the last five years in this regard?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): No wastage of central pool foodgrain stocks (wheat & rice) stored in godowns can be directly attributed to lack of scientific and proper storing technology. However, in respect of fast perishable items, wastage is directly linked to lack of scientific & proper storage facilities.

(b): Steps taken by the Government to store preserve and protect the foodgrains are enclosed at annexure.

Inspite of all precautionary measures a meagre quantity of foodgrains accrue as damaged/become non-issuable mainly due to Natural Calamities like Cyclone/Flood/Rain, during transit, contamination and wagon roof leakage.

The details on the quantity of foodgrains (rice & wheat) which got damaged in godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) during last five years are as under:

Year	Quantity Handled(Offtake) (In Lakh MT)	Damage accrued in FCI(Fig in LMT)	% age of damaged foodgrains w.r.t quantity handled (offtake)
2016-17	473.31	0.09	0.019
2017-18	452.16	0.027	0.006
2018-19	500.08	0.05	0.010
2019-20	455.126	0.02	0.004
2020-21	688.57	0.02	0.003

The Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) has conducted two studies in 2005-07 and 2013-14 on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops/Commodities in India”. As per the study report (2013-14), the harvest and post-harvest losses of major food grains & oil seeds ranged from 3.08 to about 10%, fruits from 6.70% to 15.88% and vegetables 4.58 % to 12.44% respectively.

Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) financial assistance is provided for creation of Post-harvest Management (PHM) infrastructure for perishable horticulture produce including setting up of cold storage facilities. The component is demand/entrepreneur driven for which Government assistance in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy is available at the rate of 35% of the eligible project cost in general areas and at the rate of 50% of the eligible project cost in hilly and scheduled areas through respective State Horticulture Mission.

(c): Yes Sir.

(d): The Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) provides demonstrations and hands on trainings to farmers, entrepreneurs and self-help groups engaged in agriculture and other related activities to create awareness of post-harvest technology. Many storage technologies were licensed to farmers at nominal cost. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal has also conducted training programmes related to Advanced Storage/Transportation Techniques for agro produce for different stakeholders.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2419 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.08.2021 IN LOK SABHA.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STORE, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE PROCURED FOODGRAINS TO AVOID DAMAGE ARE

A. Periodical maintenance of scientific storage structure.

Dedicated Engineering wing of FCI is carrying out periodical maintenance of all storage structures.

- a) Identifying & repairing of all the leakage points in the roof.**
- b) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.**
- c) Ensuring that no seepage inside the godowns so that no clogging up of water.**
- d) Ensuring all the repairing works are attended on priority before the onset of monsoon season.**

B. Capacity building for additional modern storage structure.

Steel Silo bins are being constructed as a measure of modern capacity building which ensures better preservation of foodgrains and enhances its shelf life.

C. Scientific storage and preservation of stocks.

- (i) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.**
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.**
- (iii) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.**
- (iv) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.**
- (v) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage are used.**

- (vi) **Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and 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.**
- (vii) **The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns. Besides stocks lying at vulnerable plinths and procured under relaxed specifications are issued on overriding priority to avoid any damage to stocks in storage.**
- (viii) **Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.**
- (ix) **While movement Polythene Sheets are spread on the floor of railway wagons to retrieve the spilled-over grains to avoid contamination to stocks.**
- (x) **Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages. Each case of damage is thoroughly investigated and disciplinary action, wherever required, is invariably taken against the delinquents.**
- (xi) **Immediate action to segregate & recondition of the stocks whenever it gets affected.**