

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3723
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024

STORAGE FACILITIES FOR FOODGRAINS

3723. DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:

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

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to ensure the safe storage of PDS paddy in Tamil Nadu particularly in Cuddalore Constituency during monsoon seasons;
- (b) the percentage of wastages of Paddy during the last three years during monsoons in Tamil Nadu and Cuddalore Constituency due to non-proper storage facilities in PDS;
- (c) the manner in which the Government protects foodgrains from damage caused by heavy rainfall, flooding other extreme weather events in Public Distribution;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure for storing PDS foodgrains in Tamil Nadu particularly in Cuddalore Constituency including construction of new godowns and renovation during the last five years;
- (e) the initiatives taken by the Government to reduce material wastage in the storage and transportation of PDS foodgrains in Tamil Nadu; and
- (f) the details of funds allotted by the Government for supply of Food and Public Distribution during the last five years?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Tamil Nadu is a Decentralised Procurement States (DCP). The state Government procure, store and distribute foodgrains as per their National Food Security Act (NFSA)/Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirement. In case of procurement less than requirement, the shortfall is bridged by Food Corporation of India (FCI) by inducting stock from States having surplus procurement. As on 01.11.2024, 12 LMT Covered storage capacities is available with FCI (Owned - 6.46 LMT & Hired- 5.54 LMT) and 8.92 LMT is with the State agencies in Tamilnadu state for storing of Central Pool foodgrain stocks. A total of 30020 MT storage capacity of FCI (Owned+Hired) is currently available in Cuddalore revenue district. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) ensures safe storage of paddy in various revenue districts of Tamilnadu including Cuddalore constituency.

(b): The Public Distribution System (PDS) food grains are in the custody of TNCSC. The State government of Tamil Nadu informed that no paddy was damaged due to non-proper storage under public distribution system during the last three years.

(c): FCI godowns are constructed as per BIS standard and foodgrains are stored scientifically. Proper Drainage facilities are available in the depot and the leakage/ seepage points are arrested in time to safeguard the foodgrains.

(d): Requirement of Storage capacity in FCI depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and Public Distribution System (PDS) operations for food grains (Rice and Wheat). FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes at a Pan India level including Tamil Nadu:-

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

Maintenance of Godown infrastructure is done as per requirement.

(e): Initiatives taken by FCI to reduce material wastage in the storage and transportation of PDS food grains in Tamil Nadu are as under

Storage Loss:

- The position of storage losses is reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meetings (MPR) and inspection/monitoring of depots showing higher storage & transit losses is intensified.
- Covered storage capacity has been augmented to avoid CAP Storage of food grains.
- Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of food grains stocks is undertaken to keep them free from pests/infestations i.e. to minimize losses due to biotic factors.
- Depots exhibiting high storage losses in a month are inspected at the level of ED (Zone), GM (Region) and other senior officers.
- From time to time various Zonal/Regional squads are also deputed for surprise check.
- Security staff of FCI, Home Guards and other external agencies is being deployed at FCI depots to ensure safety and security of the stock.
- CCTV cameras are installed in owned depots for better surveillance and supervision.
- Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of street lights for illumination of godowns and proper locking of the sheds are taken to secure the godowns.
- Disciplinary action is being initiated against delinquents wherever abnormal/unjustified losses are reported after due investigation.

Transit Loss:

- Transit losses are reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meetings.
- Investigation of High Transit Losses at HQ/Zone/Region/District levels at regular intervals.
- Deployment of Independent Consignment Certification Squad (ICCS) at the time of loading /unloading.
- Spreading of Polythene Sheet on the floor of railway wagons to retrieve the spilled over grains.
- Joint Verification of high Transit Loss cases to fix responsibility. The lower limit of TL for JV's has been reduced from 1% to 0.75% and further 0.50% w.e.f 1.10.2022.
- Implementation of high security cable seals on wagons at the time of loading of foodgrains to avoid tempering enroute pilferage w.e.f 1.01. 2022.This led to 92% reduction in number of Rakes reporting abnormal Transit Losses i.e. more than 0.5%.
- Made-up bags accrued at railhead are being accounted.
- Disciplinary action is being initiated against delinquents wherever abnormal/unjustified transit losses are reported

The steps taken by FCI to reduce wastage of food grains is attached as **Annexure – I**

(f): Budget Estimates in respect of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India for the last five financial years is at Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE USTARRED QUESTION NO.3723 FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Steps taken by FCI to prevent wastage of foodgrains:

- (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 are taken.
- (vi) Foodgrains in Transit Storage/ '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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (ix) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (x) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages. In case any negligence is reported suitable action is taken against officers / officials found responsible.
- (xi) Identify & repair all the leakage point in the roof is done periodically.
- (xii) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xiii) Ensure no seepage inside the godowns.
- (xiv) No clogging up of water in the premises.

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF THE USTARRED QUESTION NO.3723 FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Budget Estimates in respect of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India for the last five financial years:

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (BE) (Rs. In Crores)
2019-20	242240.39
2020-21	172235.43
2021-22	303974.30
2022-23	225959.58
2023-24	230513.94
