

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025

EFFICIENCY OF PDS

†1616. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for inadequacy of the current system of storage, distribution and ensuring efficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS) through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the State of Bihar; and
- (b) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to ensure food security during disasters like floods and droughts through cooperatives and to achieve the objectives of the National Food Security Act?

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

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

Bihar is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State. The state Government procure, store and distribute foodgrains as per their National Food Security Act (NFSA)/Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements. Shortfall arises due to less procurement than the requirements, if any, is bridged by inducting stock or excess procurement wherein excess stock is moved to deficit areas.

As on 01.11.2025, 13.43 LMT Covered storage capacities is available with FCI (Owned – 3.45 LMT & Hired-9.99 LMT) and 10.13 LMT Covered storage capacity is with the State agencies in Bihar for storing of Central Pool foodgrain stocks.

The requirement of Storage capacity depends upon the level of procurement, requirement of buffer norms and PDS operations for Rice and Wheat mainly. DFPD continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through following schemes: -

1. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
2. Central Sector Scheme (CSS) 2017-25
3. Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode

4. Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies
5. Hiring of godown through Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS).
6. Creation of godowns under Asset Monetization
7. Covered & Plinth (CAP) Hiring Scheme -2025
8. Modified PEG scheme for NE & Hilly states with longer guarantee period of 15 years

At present, DFPD is augmenting its storage capacity through following schemes in Bihar state: -

1. Construction of SILOs under PPP mode
2. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
3. Asset Monetization Scheme

As per the NFSA Act 2013, the responsibility for implementation and monitoring of the schemes of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government in accordance with guidelines issued by the Central Government for each scheme, and their own schemes, for ensuring food security to the targeted beneficiaries in their State lies with the concerned State Govt. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the concerned state Govt. to maintain a robust public distribution system to ensure smooth distribution of food grains to the targeted beneficiaries.

Further, Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) envisages to create godowns at Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) level by convergence of various Government schemes i.e. World's largest grain Storage Plan. The plan envisages storage of locally procured stocks at local PACs level and distribution thereafter in the same area.

(b): The above stated steps of DFPD at Point (a) are in the lines of multi-model objectives which also include the food security during disasters to achieve the objective of the National Food Security Act.
