

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1799
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025

STORAGE OF PDS PADDY IN WEST BENGAL

1799. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

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

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to ensure the safe storage of Public Distribution System (PDS) Paddy in West Bengal during monsoon seasons;
- (b) the percentage of wastages of Paddy during the last three years during monsoons in West Bengal due to non-proper storage facilities in PDS;
- (c) the manner in which the Government protects foodgrains from damage caused by heavy rainfall, flooding and other extreme weather events in Public Distribution;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure for storing PDS foodgrains in West Bengal 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 West Bengal; 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) & (b): Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired, in the country, including West Bengal, through following schemes:

- Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme
- Central Sector Scheme (CSS) “Storage & Godowns” (Focus on NE)
- Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/State Agencies
- Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)
- Creation of godown under Asset Monetization
- Construction of SILOs under Public Private Partner-ship (PPP) mode

However, West Bengal is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State and no paddy has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), during the last three years, and State Govt. itself undertakes paddy procurement in West Bengal.

(c): The Department follows specific specifications for the construction of warehouse, which are in line with the latest warehousing standards, which protect the warehouse goods. Foodgrains are scientifically stored in warehouses. In case of heavy rainfall, flooding and other extreme weather events, structural vulnerabilities are identified and necessary repairs/maintenance to minimize risks during heavy rains are carried out. Also, emergency arrangements such as additional Polythene rolls, MLCL covers, and pumping equipment are kept ready in flood-prone regions.

Further, in order to keep its storage infrastructure robust and updated, the Department is taking various steps for Modernization as under:

(i) Construction of SILOs under PPP Mode:

Steel Silo storage with bulk handling facility is a highly mechanized and modernized way of storing food grains in bulk. It ensures better preservation of food grains and enhances its shelf life. If food grains are stored in Silos and transported in bulk, losses due to theft, pilferage and transportation would be negligible compared to food grains storage in bags in conventional warehouses.

(ii) Smart Warehouse Project :-

Department has undertaken a pilot project on Smart Warehousing Technologies in 150 Godowns of FCI and all the food grain warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), which includes CCTV Surveillance and IoT sensors for monitoring key parameters such as CO₂ & Phosphine levels, fire hazards, humidity, unauthorized entry and temperature on real time basis for ensuring security and efficiency in foodgrain storage.

(iii) Depot Darpan Portal has also been introduced in the step of Modernization and Digitization of storage facilities of FCI & CWC. The Portal facilitates self-assessment, rating, and grading of storage facilities.

(d): Storage capacities are being created/hired, through various schemes mentioned at Point (a) & (b).

Further, according to requirement of various Food Storage Depots, under West Bengal Region, the Food Corporation of India (FCI), has initiated several Repair Maintenance & colouring including flooring, boundary wall works and construction of new cement concrete road and roofing works. Out of which several works are already completed and rest will be completed by 31.03.2026. In addition, necessary petty fund has been allotted to all depots to carry out day to day repair and maintenance works.

The CWC is also taking steps to improve its storage infrastructure through initiatives such as :-

- Replacement of AC Sheets with Galvalume Sheets.
- Use of FM2 Flooring.
- Installation of Wall Cladding/Puff Panels
- Incorporation of Air Bubble Wrap Sheets.

(e): To modernize the food supply chain in the country, the Department is constructing modern steel silos and envisaging bulk transportation of food grains through specialized wagons and containers under PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode. Steel Silo storage with bulk handling is a highly automated and modernized method of storing food grains in bulk. It ensures better preservation of food grains and reduced losses.

Moreover, the measures taken to reduce Storage Losses & Transit Losses are attached as **Annexure**.

(f): Release of food subsidy is a continuous process and is released as per the extant principles and availability of fund after due examination of the admissibility of the claims of the State Government. Details of food subsidy released to the Govt of West Bengal since last 5 years and current year is as under:

(in Rs crores)

FY	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (as on 02/12/2025)
West Bengal	8792.03	5421.34	6580.11	0.00*	8899.88	9352.14

* Food Subsidy could not be released on account of pending reconciliation of distribution data by State Govt and accordingly, the said bills of FY 2023-24 onwards have been released now in FY 2025-26

Measures taken to reduce Storage Losses are as under: -

The position of storage losses is reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meetings (MPR) at HQ level and EDs (Zone)/GMs(R) are instructed to intensify inspections/monitoring of depots showing higher storage & transit losses.

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 (Zones), GM (Regions) and other senior officers.

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.

Measures taken to reduce Transit Losses are as under: -

- Transit losses are reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meeting at Hqrs level.
- Investigation of High Transit Losses at HQ/Zone/Region/District levels at regular intervals.
- 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
- Deployment of Independent Consignment Certification Squad (ICCS) at the time of loading /unloading.