

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1914
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2026

**STRENGTHEN STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS
AND WASTE**

1914. SHRI VE VAITHILINGAM:

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

(a): whether the Government has taken steps to strengthen storage and distribution systems to reduce food loss and waste, given that post-harvest losses cost India nearly 1.5 trillion annually and affect staples such as paddy and wheat as well as perishables;

(b): if so, the details of initiatives supported for modern warehousing, moisture proof silos, cold chain expansion, surplus food redistribution to food banks and community kitchens and consumer awareness campaigns to promote mindful consumption and reduce wastage at the household level; and

(c): whether the Government proposes to expand coordination with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, State Governments/UTs including Puducherry and civil society organisations to ensure efficient distribution, strengthen circular economy models and achieve measurable outcomes in terms of reduced food waste and improved national food security?

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

(a) & (b): The Government has taken following measures to strengthen storage and distribution systems resulting reduce food loss and waste:-

PEG Scheme - Under the PEG Scheme, construction of conventional godowns has been undertaken in 24 States by attracting private investment. PEG Scheme was initiated in 2008. A capacity of 148.61 lakh MT has been completed as on 31.12.2025.

PEG Scheme II- In order to create covered capacity in wheat procuring states specially Punjab and Haryana, new Capacity was sanctioned in Punjab and Haryana to Phase out Open Storage i.e. 60 LMT in Punjab and 30 LMT in Haryana is envisaged under this Plan.

Centre Sector Scheme (CSS) - This scheme is implemented in North Eastern States along with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. During 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), a capacity of 1,17,680 MT in North Eastern (NE) States and 20,000 MT in other than NE States has been completed by FCI. A storage capacity of 46,495 MT has also

been created by State Governments. This scheme was extended from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2025. In this period, a capacity of 123970 MT has been completed. This scheme is culminated on 31.03.2025.

Asset Monetization- Under Asset Monetization, godowns are constructed on FCI vacant land. 177 locations were identified for construction of 17.47 LMT storage capacity.

In addition to the above, the Government is taking various steps to modernize warehouses for increasing effectiveness in infrastructural as well as operational:-

Construction of SILOs under PPP Mode: The steel silos are constructed under PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode which has led to significant cost reduction due to risk sharing and private investment under this framework. In some cases, there is delay in completion of silos mainly due to problems faced by private parties in acquiring land for the project, force majeure incidents and approval from railways in case of railway siding silos. Such factors have contributed to implementation delays rather than systemic cost escalation or regional imbalance.

Silos at 56 locations with capacity 31.75 LMT have been completed.

The SMART Warehouse uses IoT technology in government warehouses to prevent foodgrain losses. Monitoring parameters include temperature, humidity, gas levels, airflow, and events such as unauthorized access, rodent, and insect activity. The pilot project is underway in FCI godowns in phased manner.

Depot Darpan portal has also been introduced in the step of Modernization and Digitalization of storage facilities in FCI. The Portal facilitates self-assessment, rating, and grading of FCI and CWC foodgrain depots.

Installation of Modern CCTV Cameras: Modern CCTV cameras are also installed in all FCI & CWC godowns for continuous monitoring.

As per information received from Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, no such study w.r.t. post-harvest losses cost India nearly 1.5 trillion annually, as stated, has been undertaken by the AMI (Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure) Division of DMI(Directorate of Marketing & Inspection). However, in order to strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage infrastructure, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is implementing Capital Subsidy Scheme, Rural Godown Scheme (RGS) for creation of scientific Storage capacity since 01.04.2001 and Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading & Standardization (AMIGS) since 20.10.2004 for creation of agricultural marketing infrastructure (other than storage). Both the schemes have been subsumed as "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) since 01.04.2014, and is implemented across the country including UT of Puducherry through its attached office, DMI.

Under AMI, a total of 49,796 godowns of storage capacity of 982.94 LMT has been created up to 31.12.2025 with subsidy release of Rs. 4832.61 crore.

As informed by Ministry of Cooperation, to address the shortage of storage capacity for food grains in the country and creation of decentralized scientific grain storage infrastructure, the Government, on 31st May, 2023, has approved the Plan for the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector", which has been rolled out as a Pilot Project. The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure including godowns, custom hiring centers, processing units, Fair Price

Shops, etc. at PACS/ other cooperative societies level through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc.

(c): To strengthen the storage and facilitate the distribution system, this Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Cooperation under “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector” has providing hiring guarantee to PACS godowns on the lines of existing PEG schemes as the plan is rolled out as pilot project.

The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure including godowns, custom hiring centers, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. at PACS/ other cooperative societies level through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc.

Under the pilot project, construction of godowns in 11 PACS of 11 States has been completed.
