

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6146
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2026

STORAGE CRISIS IN PUNJAB

6146. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a): whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reduced the commission payable to arthiyas for wheat stored in steel silos in Punjab from Rs. 46 to Rs. 23 per quintal and if so, the rationale and date of such reduction;
- (b): whether this reduction has resulted in wheat being first stored in gunny bags at godowns and then transferred to silos—adding approximately Rs. 100 per quintal in additional handling/logistics cost, amounting to nearly 100 crore across Punjab's 9.85 lakh tonne silo capacity and if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify this procedural inefficiency;
- (c): whether the Government is aware that Punjab's entire grain storage capacity is choked with old stocks, when the procurement is going to begin and if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d): the details of the steps being taken to evacuate old stocks, clear godown space, open-storage crisis thereby protecting both grain quality and farmers' interests?

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

(a) & (b): As per the prevailing guidelines, the commission payable to Arthiyas for procurement operations at Silos is fixed at 50% of the rate applicable for normal procurement operations at mandis. In Punjab and Haryana, the commission payable to Arthiyas has been set at Rs 25.37 per Qtl for procurement operations at Silo, effective from RMS 2026–27. A Committee has also been constituted to review commission to Societies/Arthiyas for procurement operations at Silos vis-a-vis Commission applicable for normal procurement operations at Mandis.

(c) & (d): Total available covered capacity in Punjab Region is 176.74 LMT (FCI 149.64 LMT, State agencies 27.10 LMT).

Also 3.37 LMT CAP storage is available with FCI (Owned) and 5.80 LMT (Hired) and 35 LMT CAP is available with State Agencies.

10-12 LMT stock movement takes place on monthly basis for creating storage space to accommodate fresh foodgrains which arrived due to high volume of procurement in both KMS and RMS seasons.

Out of total capacity of FCI, 9.25 LMT capacity pertains to Silo.
