

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2900
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th MARCH, 2016

ONLINE TRACKING OF STOCKS

2900. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to replace the existing system of manual upgradation of grain stocks data in various depots and on the transit with the system of online tracking and monitoring of stocks if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to link all godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) through an online network to track real time stock positions and quality of grains stored and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the FCI has taken godowns on hiring basis, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the online tracking system will also be implemented in the godowns hired by the FCI and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which all the godowns are likely to be linked with the network to track real time stock positions and quality of grains stored?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has already taken up a project called "Depot Online System" to automate all the operations at the depot level and eliminate usage of manual registers by capturing data online at source and on a real time basis. This system can provide data on stocks in transit, but there will be no tracking enroute. Details are given in Annexure.

...2...

(c): Yes, FCI hires godowns from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), State agencies and private parties for storage of foodgrains. The details indicating number of godowns hired on rent along with capacity during the last three years and the current year are given as below:-

As on	Number of Hired Godowns	Capacity of Hired godowns (in Lakh MT)
31.03.2013	1395	220.95
31.03.2014	1356	212.49
31.03.2015	1242	203.45
31.01.2016	1345	205.27

(d): Yes, the online system is being implemented initially in FCI's own depots and would be extended to godowns hired by FCI subsequently.

(e): It is expected to link all the own godowns of FCI by July, 2016. No timeline has been fixed for the hired godowns, since the work for these godowns is to be undertaken by the respective agencies, SWCs and CWC.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2900 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.03.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA

Depot Online System

Scope of the project

FCI is implementing *Depot Online System* to automate all the operations at the depot level and eliminate usage of manual registers by capturing data online at source and on a real time basis. Initially, the project is being implemented in the FCI's own depots. However, subsequently, the project will be implemented in hired godowns as well. The project is being implemented under the technical support from Department of Electronics and Information technology (DeitY) and National Informatics Center (NIC).

Key Benefits

The expected benefits are mentioned below:

- Integrated view of end to end processes, use of workflow, notification and alerts
- Seamless connection between depots and district/regional offices of FCI
- Capture data at source and in real time through Handheld Devices, reduce redundancy
- Integrate with weigh bridge to read data automatically
- Standardize and improve current processes to increase efficiency
- Free up manpower from laborious data collation and report preparation
- Leverage Information Technology as decision support systems to handle dynamic nature of business
- Align with 'Digital India' vision of the Government

Major Milestones

- FCI appointed *M/s PricewaterhouseCoopers* (PwC) as the *project consultant* on 17th Nov'14, for assisting FCI in deciding a suitable *System Integrator* for the project and thereafter support the implementation of the project.
- On 8th April 2015, the *Detailed Project Report* (DPR) for Depot Online System, containing the specifications for the hardware to be procured and strategy for training implementation and roll-out of the project across all FCI and non- FCI depots, was finalized and approved by the Board of Directors of FCI.
- Tender floated on 14th May'15 and work awarded to M/s Ricoh India Ltd on 14th Aug'15.

Current Status:-

1. The application is being initially rolled out in pilot depots.
2. The Depot Online System Application has been hosted on the NIC Cloud Server.
3. *User credentials* for all the Pilot Depots have already been created. User Credentials for the Head Quarter/Zonal Office/Regional Office/District Office are being created by M/s Ricoh, *System Integrator* (SI).
4. Training has been imparted to the personnel in the Pilot Depots.
5. Hardware has been installed at these depots.
6. Gateways for E-mail & SMS alerts are being arranged from NIC.
7. Data Recovery site for the application is being provisioned by NIC.
