

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the State of Himachal Pradesh, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is maintaining a storage capacity of 0.26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and the average stocks during the month of July, 2012 were 0.17 lakh tonnes.

The Government has taken the following measures to tackle with the drought:

- (i) Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme in drought affected areas in order to provide protective irrigation to save standing crops.
- (ii) Ceiling on seeds subsidy has been enhanced from Rs.500/- per quintal to Rs.700/- per quintal in respect of cereal, from Rs. 1200/- per quintal to Rs.2000/- per quintal in respect of pulses and oilseeds, and from Rs.800/- per quintal to Rs.1000/- per quintal in respect of coarse cereals.
- (iii) Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR) has prepared Contingency Plans for 19 Districts of Punjab. These plans outline appropriate measures to deal with rainfall deficit situations in the State.
- (iv) Ministry of Power has allocated additional power to Punjab.
- (v) Allocation of additional funds of Rs.50 crore for implementation of Central Sector Scheme on Feed & fodder to increase production of high yielding fodder seeds.
- (vi) Waiver of duty on import of oil cakes to increase availability of feed for livestock.

A quantity of 329.61 lakh tonnes of rice and 270.94 lakh tonnes of wheat have been allocated under the Targetted Public Distribution System(TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes(OWS) for the year 2012-13.

#### **Wastage of food**

1588. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about one third food produced every year in the country does not reach human mouth;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is either lost in transit or rotten in the open or wasted by the consumers themselves;

- (c) the details of food wasted during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop wastage of food across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No specific data is maintained centrally on magnitude of wastages of food produced every year. However, it is a fact that some quantity of foodgrains is lost during post harvest stages in storage and transportation at farm and commercial level. Besides, food wastages are also witnessed at consumers' level especially during occasions like marriages/parties etc. A study on "Estimation of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of major agricultural produce in India" by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) was carried out during 2005-07. The survey was undertaken in 106 districts in the country with respect to 46 crops and commodities comprising 5 cereals, 4 pulses, 6 oil seeds, 8 fruits, 8 vegetables, 8 plantation crops and spices, 6 livestock produce and jaggery. The operations considered for assessment of losses were harvesting, collection, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation and storage depending upon the commodity. The losses in selected cereals, pulses and oil seeds were found in the range of 3.9 to 6.0%, 4.3 to 6.1% and 2.8 to 10.1% respectively. The losses in selected fruits and vegetables were observed in the range of 5.8% to 18.0%.

Foodgrains may get damaged during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains in case of unscientific storage because of lack of storage space, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that a quantity of 6702 tons, 6346 tons, 3338 tons and 1323.69 tons of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable in FCI during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto July 2012) respectively. Details of region-wise stocks of food grains accrued as damaged/non-issuable in FCI during last three years and current year is given in the Statement-I (See below). Further, FCI has informed that a quantity of 1.55 lakh tons, 1.60 lakh tons and 1.79 lakh tons of foodgrains were lost in transit during the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

(d) Steps taken for safe and scientific storage of foodgrains to avoid damages are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Government has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs to study the various aspects of food wastages witnessed especially during occasion like marriages/parties/meetings in the country and suggest ways and means to control it. In the first meeting of the Committee it was decided to take action by means of an awareness campaign through audio visual publicity, use of consumer clubs in the schools and colleges, to sensitize student community about the avoidable wastage, to identify the NGOs involved in collection of surplus food for distribution to poor and to entrust Indian Institute of Public Administration(IIPA) with the task of conducting a survey on wastages to assess the magnitude of the problem. In the second meeting of the Committee held on 14.2.2012 action taken so far particularly on the study conducted by IIPA and the report submitted by it have been reviewed. It was felt that emphasis may be primarily on awareness campaign and provisions in curriculum, in junior classes so that it may inculcate the right attitudes from the childhood itself.

***Statement-I***

*Region-wise stock accrued as damaged/non-issuable with FCI  
for the last three years and current year*

		(Figures in Tons)			
Sl.No.	Region	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (as on 1.8.2012)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	726	200	0	319.3
2.	Jharkhand	17	39	29	0
3.	Orissa	0	18	36	1
4.	West Bengal	1357	922	477	11
5.	Assam	38	49	442	49
6.	North East Frontier (NEF)	77	175	0	195
7.	Nagaland & Manipur	0	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Delhi	5	1	10.9	6.18
9.	Haryana	0	53	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	0	0	0
12.	Punjab	2273	182	37	89
13.	Rajasthan	12	21	30	103.23
14.	Uttar Pradesh	14	520	258	0
15.	Uttarakhand	0	1338	72	221
16.	Andhra Pradesh	0	3	4.33	0
17.	Kerala	19	99	200	0
18.	Karnataka	70	17	0	69.34
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	12	29	16.66
20.	Gujarat	814	2595	226	195
21.	Maharashtra	245	97	1473	39
22.	Madhya Pradesh	49	2	0	0
23.	Chhattisgarh	974	2	13.78	8.98
TOTAL		6702	6346	3338.01	1323.69

**Statement-II**

*Steps taken by Government for safe & scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains*

The following precautionary and remedial steps are mandated to be followed by F.C.I, and State Government agencies to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.

- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

#### **Paddy procurement centres in Assam**

1589. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India had set up only 13 paddy procurement centres in Assam and planning only seven more in the future;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State has 27 districts and most of the population of the State is dependent on agriculture and paddy being the prime source; and

(c) the details of steps the Ministry has taken to protect the interest of paddy farmers in terms of price fixation and procurement of paddy from them?