

term usage to store the procured foodgrains as per their requirement if the capacity available with FCI is not sufficient to store the foodgrains.

Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Under the scheme, capacity of about 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. Further in the Eleventh Five Year Plan an allocation of Rs. 154.82 crore has been made to FCI for construction of storage godowns. This is likely to result in the construction of about 1.2 lakh tonnes capacity.

Food inflation

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

(a) whether food inflation is still on the rise across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether hike in petrol, diesel and LPG prices are likely to further increase pressure on prices of household articles including food items; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. The WPI based primary food articles inflation rate (%) after having reached a peak of 21.85% in the month of February, 2010 had declined to 10.66% in the month of April, 2011 and further to 8.38% for the month of June, 2011.

(c) A hike in petrol, diesel and LPG prices is likely to have an indirect impact on prices of household articles including food items.

(d) The steps already taken by the Government to contain food inflation are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Starred Question No. 4 (a) to (f)].

Foodgrain stocks in FCI godowns

†38. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of foodgrain stocks in the godowns of Food Corporation of India during 2010-11;
- (b) whether, due to lack of sufficient storage capacity in godowns, foodgrains are likely to rot this year also and if so, the quantum thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken by Government to resolve the problem of insufficient storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A statement showing capacity of FCI godowns including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired available with FCI, and the stocks stored therein as on 31.3.2011 is given in Annexure [See Appendix 223, Annexure No.1].

A meagre quantity of 366.33 MT during 2011-12 (upto 01.06.2011) accrued as damaged. The details are given in the Statement.

Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme is based on the overall procurement/consumption and the storage space already available. For the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four months requirement of PDS and other Welfare Schemes in a State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock levels in the last three years are considered to decide the storage capacity required. Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State-wise capacity requirement and locations were identified. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.