

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4162
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
LOSS OF FOODGRAINS
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

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

- (a) whether heavy quantum of foodgrains is lost every year due to attacks by insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms etc;
- (b) if so, the details of such loss during the last three years alongwith value involved during each year, State/Union Territory-wise; thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to reduce such loss in future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : Exact quantum of foodgrain losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms etc. is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V G Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A joint survey conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research institute during 1985-88 in Bulandshahr district of UP had estimated total foodgrain losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages.

(c) & (d) : In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post harvest period, the Government of India had launched the Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this Scheme is training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularisation of scientific storage structures like Metal bins, pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.