

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4891
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
SAVE GRAIN CAMPAIGN
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether large quantity of foodgrains are lost at pre-harvest and post-harvest stages;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for the same;
- (c) whether Save Grain Campaign (SGC) has helped to save the foodgrains;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare the SGC as national programmes;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other remedial measures being taken by the Government to save grains in pre-harvest and post-harvest season?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The foodgrains are lost at pre and post harvest stages by insects, pests, diseases, rodents, moisture, birds micro-organisms etc.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): SGC is having a mini set up at regional level and has 17 field stations situated in different States. It is working as a catalytic agent to spread the message of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level in close collaboration with the State Governments, NGOs and corporate offices.

(f): To save the crops from pre-harvest losses, a Central Sector Scheme entitled 'Promotion of Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The main activities of the IPM scheme are pest and disease monitoring, production and release of biocontrol agents and training of Agricultural Extension Officers and farmers.

Besides, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Food Agencies procure the foodgrains and take adequate measures to minimise losses during handling, storage and transportation.