

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:28

ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether a huge quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) was lost over the last decade as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 3 July,2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the expenditure incurred thereagainst, State-wise;
- (c) the total quantum of foodgrains currently held by FCI in its godowns across the country due to the failure of the States to lift their quota of foodgrains; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to utilise this stock and avoid losses due to destruction of foodgrains?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.10.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): About 10 lakh tons of damaged foodgrains had been accrued in the account of FCI over a period of last ten years from 1997-2007 and the same has been reflected in the Hindustan Times news item. The accrual of damaged foodgrains is due to various reasons, such as cyclones, floods and long storage of foodgrain stocks. Besides, some quantities of foodgrains had also got damaged during transportation to other regions. The quantity of damaged foodgrains works out to 0.139% approximately of the total foodgrains handled by FCI during the last 10 years.

(c): The allocation and offtake of foodgrains in 2008-09 upto August, 2008 is as under:

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Commodity	Allotment to States	Offtake
2008-09	Wheat	61.39	46.63

(upto August, ` 08)

Rice	119.38	104.29
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Stocks held by FCI as on 31.8.2008 was 98.50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 68.88 lakh tonnes of rice, inclusive of unlifted stocks of State Governments.

(d): The foodgrain stocks, which are not lifted by the State Governments in a month, are utilised for allotment for TPDS and other welfare schemes in the next month. The FCI has taken following steps to minimise losses of foodgrains during storage in the godowns of FCI:

- (i) All FCI godowns are constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments is to be carried out regularly for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (iv) Foodgrains in `Cover and Plinth` (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.

(vi) The principle of 'First in First Out' (FIFO) is normally adopted so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

(vii) Covered wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.