

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4080  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010  
LOSS DUE TO PESTS  
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether certain quantity of foodgrains and other food articles go waste due to infestation by pests and rodents etc.;
- (b) if so, the value and quantity thereof during each of the last three years, itemwise and State-wise;and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to minimise the said wastage?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Due to the use of effective insecticides and rodenticides for the control of insects and rodents, the quantum of foodgrains destroyed in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns due to infestation by pests and rodents is negligible.

However, some quantity of foodgrains with the FCI in the Central Pool was damaged and had become non-issuable due to various reasons, such as, cyclones and floods including pests and rodents. The quantity of foodgrains damaged during the last three years and their values are as follows:

Item	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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(Upto Feb., 2010)

Total quantity of foodgrains handled by FCI (in lakh tonnes)	750.52	913.23	826.87
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Value of Stock handled (in Rs. Crores)	89011.64	123885.61	120623.12
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Quantity accrued as non-issuable (in lakh tonnes)	0.34	0.20	0.07
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Approx. value of non-issuable quantity (in Rs. Crores)	22.33	13.03	3.61
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Percentage of non-issuable stock in terms of quantity	0.045	0.022	0.008
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Percentage of non-issuable stock in terms of value	0.025	0.010	0.003
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The State-wise and commodity-wise stocks accrued as non-issuable during the last three years are given in Annexures-I, II and III.

(c): The following steps have been taken to minimize the wastage of foodgrains:

(i) All FCI godowns to be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.

(ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals to be provided in all the godowns.

(iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments to be carried out regularly and timely for the control of insects, pests and rodents.

(iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates to be 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 to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.

(vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) to be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.