

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2525
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011
WASTAGE OF FOOD
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

e:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a scientific study to ascertain the magnitude of wastage of food items in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Central Government has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs to study the various aspects of food wastages witnessed especially during occasions like marriages/parties/meetings in the country and suggest ways and means to control it. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 23.06.2011 wherein it was decided to take action on the following to begin with:

(i) Awareness Campaign through audio visual publicity, use of consumer clubs in schools and colleges.

(ii) To sensitize student community about the avoidable wastage.

(iii) To identify the NGOs involved in collection of surplus food for distribution to the poor.

(iv) To entrust Indian Institute of Public Administration with the conduct of a survey on wastage so as to assess magnitude of the problem.

In this regard the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Education Ministers of all States/UTs have been addressed for inclusion of a chapter in the social sciences on this issue in the curriculum of schools/colleges so that the children may become conscious of this issue from the growing age itself.