

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3372  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011  
FOOD WASTAGE  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Vyas Dr.(Kum.) Girija

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

- (a) whether any assessment/estimates have been made regarding wastage of food in the country, particularly during social gatherings;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof alongwith the steps taken to check such wastage and create awareness among the public in this regard and the quantum of food likely to be saved as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has held consultation with the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to control wastage of food; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): No specific data is maintained centrally on the magnitude of wastages of food in the country. 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. Civil Supply/Food Secretaries of the four States viz. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu are also the member of the Committee. 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.