

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1113

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

FOOD WASTAGE

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) the details of the countries where laws regulating food wastage at social functions are operational presently;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to regulate the wastage of food at social functions in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to encourage self regulation and undertake awareness campaigns in this regard;
- (e) whether any discussions have been held with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for its inclusion in school curriculum; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response received thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a): No specific details have been maintained by the Government.

(b) to (f): 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 (IIPA) with the conduct of a survey on wastage so as to assess magnitude of the problem.

Recently the IIPA have conducted a preliminary study/ survey on Assessment of Food Wastage and Ostentatious Behaviour during social gatherings in the NCR of Delhi. In their Report the IIPA have recommended, amongst others, mainly the need to develop awareness amongst the country's population through awareness campaigns, education, etc. The Report mentions the unsuitability of legal approach as a solution to this problem since it is essentially a socio-cultural issue.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development and Education Ministers of all States/UTs were addressed vide the Department of Consumer Affairs letters dated 5th August 2011 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. In response, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has informed that the matter was taken up with NCERT and CBSE. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 developed by NCERT cover new syllabi and textbooks in all the subjects for all stages of school education. 'Food' is one among six common themes of the syllabus of Environmental Studies of class III- V. Food is also included from class VI-X in Science subject. The contents related to "Wastage of food" have already been included in the syllabus on Health and Physical Education as a compulsory subject upto Secondary Stage (Classes XI-XII) and focus has been made on avoiding wastage of food.