

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:770

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS

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

(a) whether a large quantum of food produced every year in the country does not reach the desired beneficiaries as the same is lost during storage and transit or is wasted by a section of the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of food wasted during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop wastage of food across the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): In so far distribution of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is concerned, some losses/damages of foodgrain including transit and storage losses occur during operational activities in Food Corporation of India (FCI). Losses/ damages of foodgrains may occur in FCI due to various reasons such as driage of moisture, long storage, insect-pest infestation, rat and bird trouble, multiple handling and use of hooks by labourers, weak texture/ bursting of gunnies, negligence on the part of officials, theft, spillage, rains/floods etc. In case of negligence of officials, action is taken against them invariably.

Details of storage and transit losses of foodgrains (wheat & rice) occurred in FCI during last three years is given as under:-

Storage Losses

(Qty. in Lakh Tons)

Year	Qty. of Loss	Qty. Received	% age of loss
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2008-09	0.58	620.17	0.10
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2009-10	1.31	725.27	0.18
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2010-11#	1.56	530.77	0.29
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2011-12#	1.48	542.66	0.27
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(Upto Feb.12)

(# Provisional)

Transit Losses

(Qty. in Lakh Tons)

Year	Qty. of Loss	Qty. of Moved	% age of loss
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2008-09	1.06	303.84	0.35
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2009-10	1.55	346.56	0.45
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2010-11#	1.60	317.39	0.50
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2011-12#	1.60	298.69	0.54
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(Upto Feb 12)

(# Provisional)

Steps taken by FCI to minimise the storage and transit losses are given at Annexure.

As regards wastage of food by a section of consumers, a Committee has been set in this Ministry to study the various aspects of food wastages and suggest ways and means to control it. The Committee decided to take action on awareness campaign through audio visual publicity; use of consumer clubs in schools and colleges; to sensitize student community about the avoidable wastage; to identify the NGOs involved in collection of surplus food for distribution to the poor, etc. A study on food wastages was entrusted to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) so as to assess magnitude of the problem. The report submitted by IIPA has been reviewed. It was felt that emphasis may be primarily on awareness campaign and provisions in curriculum in junior classes; social functions like marriages should also display clear messages such as 'eat but not waste' and 'please do not waste food' in order to make the invitees conscious of food wastage, etc. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and Education Ministers of all States/UTs have also 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.