

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2909

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

WASTAGE OF FOOD

Dias Dr. Charles;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government had constituted any Committee to study/assess the extent of wastage of food during social gatherings and suggest measures to check such wastage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations of the Committee in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has held any interaction with the Ministry of Human Resource Development/NCERT for inclusion of the subject in school curriculum; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): 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. Recently the IIPA have conducted a preliminary study/ survey on Assessment of Food Wastage and Ostentatious Behaviour during social gatherings in the National Capital Region 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 States/UTs were addressed vide the Department of Consumer Affairs letters dated 5th 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.