

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4693  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013  
DAMAGE TO ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) the present status of the Food Security Bill;
- (b) whether huge quantities of foodgrains and other essential commodities have been stored in order to be distributed to the public after its passage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether such foodgrains are getting rotten in warehouses, godowns and storage facilities in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to release them into the open market so as to ensure availability of foodgrains at affordable prices?

**Answer**

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

(a) National Food Security Bill, 2011 (NFSB), after introduction in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for examination, which has now submitted its report. Recommendations of the Committee have been examined by the Government in consultation with States/UTs, based on which the Government proposes to move some amendments to the Bill.

(b) and (c) The requirement of foodgrains under NFSB is not likely to be much higher than the quantity currently being distributed under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes. The level of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool at any given point of time is the net result of procurement of foodgrains and its distribution under various schemes.

(d) and (e) Some quantity of foodgrains during storage may get damaged/become non-issuable due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures. However, owing to continuous monitoring and measures taken by the Government, the trend of accrual of non-issuable/damaged foodgrains in Food Corporation of India (FCI) during last 10 years has come down from 1.82 lakh tons in 2000-2001 to 0.014 lakh tons in 2012-13 (upto 1.2.2013).

In order to moderate open market prices, 95 lakh tons of wheat has been allocated starting from July 2012 for tender sale to bulk consumers/private traders under the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) and approximately 66.5 lakh tons of wheat has been sold under the scheme till 31.3.2013. In addition, 5 lakh tons of wheat and 5 lakh tons of rice has also been allocated for sale to retail consumers through State Governments/National Cooperatives.