

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:352

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS

Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the extent of losses on account of damage to foodgrains due to shortage of storage space, unsafe storage and poor handling and if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the quantum and value of foodgrains lost during the last five years;

(b) whether reports including the one from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers have pointed out the shortage and the poor quality of storage and handling facilities in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether suggestions have been received to release foodgrains through welfare schemes to liquidate stocks and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the carryover stocks, production, procurement, storage and allocation of foodgrains during the current year;

(d) whether an anti-food loss and food waste campaign has been launched under the World Environment Day Campaign, 2013 with the theme, `Think-Eat-Save`;and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the country's footprint in food wastage?

Answer

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

(a), (b) (c), (d) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO 352 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.2.2014 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) Foodgrains may get damaged during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement & handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. Details of foodgrains (wheat and rice) accrued as damaged during last five years in Food Corporation of India(FCI) godowns alongwith value is as under:

Year	Accrued Quantity of damaged/non-issuable foodgrains (in lakh tons)	Estimated value of damaged/non-issuable foodgrains (in Rs.Crores)
------	--	---

2009-10	0.07	3.84
---------	------	------

2010-11	0.06	3.61
---------	------	------

2011-12	0.03	1.67
---------	------	------

2012-13	0.03	2.57
---------	------	------

2013-14 (upto 0.23 17.76
1.1.2014)

Includes 2000 tons damaged coarse grains.

(b) A report "Global Food: Waste Not, Want Not" by Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IME) a registered body in England and Wales is available on internet. The report states that an estimated 30-50% of all food produced is wasted globally due to poor practices in harvesting, storage and transportation as well as market and consumer wastage. As Government is not aware of the approach, methodology for data collection and other details, it is not possible for the Government to comment on this report.

(c) Suggestions/ requests are received by the Government from time to time regarding release of foodgrains for various welfare schemes. Government has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidised prices to the targeted population through State Governments /Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes such as Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme, etc. During the current year, the Government has so far allocated 563.09 lakh tons of foodgrains for TPDS including Other Welfare Schemes. In addition, on the request of State Governments, an additional allocation of a total quantity of 12.98 lakh tons of foodgrains has been made to the States for calamity relief, festivals, additional requirement, etc. during the current year.

The carry over stocks of foodgrains was 596.75 lakh tons (wheat 242.07 lakh tons and rice 354.68 lakh tons) as on 1.4.2013. Estimated production of rice and wheat during the current year is 1122.78 lakh tons and 924.55 lakh tons respectively and procurement of rice and wheat during the current year is 232.91 lakh tons and 250.92 lakh tons respectively as on 14.2.2014.

Annual allocation of foodgrains for the current year (2013-14) is 563.09 lakh tons including 500.07 lakh tons under TPDS (normal & additional), 50.04 lakh tons under other welfare schemes and 12.98 lakh tons allocated for calamity, festivals, additional requirements etc.

(d) & (e) "Think, Eat, Save-Reduce our food print" campaign on World Environment Day 2013 called for minimizing waste of food at all stages of the food chain from farm to fork. This was to raise awareness about the environmental consequences and to remind that despite producing enough food for everyone, 90 crore people still go hungry world over. The celebrations were focused to reduce food loss or wastage individually as well as collectively and to move towards a world where everyone has enough to eat and no one is malnourished or under nourished. To create awareness among the general public a national campaign has been launched through audio/visual publicity on the lines of "Jaago Grahak Jaago". The steps taken by the Government to avoid damage of foodgrains during storage and transportation are at Annex.