

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2784
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023

POLICY TO CHECK FOOD WASTAGE

2784 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the amount of foodgrains damaged/spoiled during the last three years, i.e., 2020, 2021, and 2022;
- (b) the reasons for such damage/spoiling of foodgrains;
- (c) the cost of foodgrains damaged/spoiled during the last three years;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any survey to determine the food wastage in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether Government proposes to develop a policy to check food wastage in the country; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c): Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures, stores & handles huge quantities of foodgrains. Procured foodgrains are stored in a scientific manner and a very negligible quantity of foodgrains accrue as non-issuable/damaged mainly the reasons of natural calamities viz. flood, cyclone rain etc.

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The details on the value and amount of foodgrains, which got damaged/ in the godowns of FCI during the last three years *i.e.* 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 is as under:

Year	Accrued quantity of damaged foodgrains (in Lakh Tonnes)	Offtake quantity (excluding DCP states) (in Lakh Tonnes)	% of damaged foodgrains against offtake quantity	Value in Rs. Crores
2019-2020	0.019	455.126	0.004	2.61
2020-2021	0.019	688.57	0.003	2.77
2021-2022	0.017	766.081	0.002	2.51

(d) to (f): The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released a report titled "Food Wastage Index Report 2021" in the month of March, 2021.

(g) & (h) The Department of Consumer Affairs has carried out publicity campaigns through print and electronic media from time to time to sensitize people against food wastage. In addition to this, the States/UTs were advised by the Central Government to include a chapter on prevention of food wastage in the school syllabi in order to inculcate awareness among young students and sensitize them on the subject.

Further, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a social initiative known as "Save Food Share Food" to help promote donation of surplus food and reduce food waste by integrating various food distribution agencies, caterers and other stakeholders. FSSAI has also notified Food Safety and Standards (Recovery and Distribution of Surplus Food) Regulations, 2019 which specify the responsibilities of food donors and surplus food distribution organizations so that the donated food remains safe for human consumption.
