

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2431
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024

DAMAGE TO FOOD GRAINS IN FCI GODOWNS

2431 **SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:**

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of food grains in the stock of FCI gets damaged each year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that, on most occasions, the damaged food grains labelled as 'not fit for human consumption', are being sent for distribution to public;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to prevent damage to food grains in FCI godowns?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) and (b): No Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures, stores and handles huge quantities of foodgrains in a scientific manner. Despite handling of crores of tons of foodgrains across the country in all climatic zones, a negligible quantity of foodgrains accrue as damaged mainly due to natural calamities viz. flood, cyclone, heavy rains etc.

The year wise details of the quantity of foodgrains in godowns of FCI, which got damaged due to natural calamities *i.e.* flood, cyclone, rains etc. during the last five years are as under:

Year	Damaged foodgrains accrued due to Natural Calamity (in Lakh Metric Tonnes)	Off-take quantity (excluding Decentralized Procurement) (in Lakh Metric Tonnes)	% of damaged foodgrains against off-take quantity (excluding Decentralized Procurement)
2019-20	0.017	455.13	0.0037
2020-21	0.015	688.57	0.0022
2021-22	0.006	766.08	0.0008
2022-23	0.004	675.83	0.0006
2023-24	0.101	445.95	0.0226

(c) and (d): The whole process of procurement, movement, storage and distribution of foodgrains is based on stringent quality parameters and prescribed procedures. Sampling and inspection of quality of foodgrains is being done at multiple levels. It is ensured that foodgrains distributed under Public Distribution System (PDS) meet uniform specifications as prescribed each year by the Department to ensure their suitability for human consumption.

(e): The steps taken by the Government to prevent damage of foodgrains are enclosed at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2431 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA

The steps taken by the Government to prevent damage of foodgrains are as under:

- (i) All godowns are constructed as per prescribed specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures are taken.
- (vii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels.
- (viii) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (ix) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (x) Identification & repair all the leakage point in the roof is done periodically.
- (xi) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises is ensured.
- (xii) Ensuring no seepage inside the godowns.
