

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *93

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025

STAGGERING VOLUME OF FOOD WASTAGE

*93. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the staggering volume of food wasted annually which is a crisis of monumental proportions;
- (b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to reduce food wastage in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Ministry is open to the idea of technological interventions to prevent food wastage?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*93 FOR 29.07.2025 REGARDING STAGGERING VOLUME OF FOOD WASTAGE ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA.

As per the Food Waste Index Report 2024 of UN Environment Programme, the estimated food waste at household level in India is 55 kg per capita per year as compared to the global average of 79 kg per capita per year.

In respect of food grain loss during storage, Food Corporation of India (FCI) reported that damaged food grains as percentage the off-take in 2024-25 was 0.017%.

Further, in a study conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) through NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) in 2022 for post-harvest losses in agricultural produce, the post-harvest losses in respect of cereals was 3.89 - 5.92%; pulses 5.65 - 6.74%; fruits 6.02 - 15.05%; and vegetables 4.87 - 11.61% of the respective total produce.

In order to reduce food waste at the consumer level, the government launched awareness campaigns from time to time and States/UTs were advised to include a chapter on prevention of food wastage in the school syllabi in order to inculcate awareness amongst young students.

Steps taken by FCI to reduce wastage of food grains are given at **Annexure**.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries supports the creation and expansion of the processing/preservation capacity through implementation of various schemes viz. Central Sector umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Centrally sponsored "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme" and Central Sector Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI). These schemes aimed at overall development of food processing sector, including creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, reduce post-harvest losses and create higher value-addition, providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a social initiative called "Save Food Share Food" which aims to promote surplus food donation to prevent food waste in food industry including food caterers. FSSAI developed a website www.sharefood.fssai.gov.in as repository of information on this initiative. The website provides information related to the network on prevention of food waste.

Department of Consumer Affairs, in collaboration with Innovation Cell of Ministry of Education, organized hackathons on innovative technology solutions to reduce post-harvest losses in onion and tomato on aspects like storage, processing and valorization with the objective of achieving stability in the availability and prices for the consumers. The innovative solutions that emerged out of the hackathons have been under commercial deployment in various scales at various places.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*93 FOR 29.07.2025 REGARDING STAGGERING VOLUME OF FOOD WASTAGE ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA.

Steps taken by FCI to reduce wastage of foodgrains:

- (i) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iii) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (iv) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (v) Effective rat control measures are taken.
- (vi) Foodgrains in Transit Storage/‘Cover and Plinth’ (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (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 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) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages. In case any negligence is reported suitable action is taken against officers / officials found responsible.
- (xi) Identify & repair all the leakage point in the roof is done periodically.
- (xii) Cleaning of drainages in the godown premises ensured.
- (xiii) Ensure no seepage inside the godowns.
- (xiv) No clogging up of water in the premises.
