

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 997
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2025

DIVERSION OF RICE FOR ETHANOL PRODUCTION

997 **SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:**

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

- (a) the quantity of rice allocated by FCI for ethanol production since 2024-25;
- (b) whether any PDS Rice has been diverted for Ethanol production;
- (c) the quantity of Maize allocated for Ethanol production and its impact on feed availability in the Poultry sector;
- (d) whether an inter-Ministerial review mechanism exists to assess the social and economic impacts of foodgrain diversion; and
- (e) the measures taken to mitigate resultant food or feed security risks?

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

(a): The quantity of FCI rice allocated to ethanol distilleries for production of ethanol and quantity of FCI rice lifted by ethanol distilleries for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25 and ESY 2025-26 are given as under:

Ethanol Supply Year (ESY)	Allocated Quantity of FCI rice (in LMT)	Quantity of FCI rice lifted by distilleries (in LMT)
2024-25	52	31.83
2025-26	52	3.45 (upto 03.12.2025)

(b): The Food Corporation of India (FCI), after maintaining buffer stocks and making provision for meeting the requirements of the Targeted PDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), sells only excess stocks out of Central Pool under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)]. The accumulated surplus stock of rice is allocated by FCI as feedstock for production of ethanol.

(c): The quantity of Maize utilized/ to be utilized as per supply/allocation of maize based ethanol during ESY 2024-25 and ESY 2025-26 is as under:

Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) (Nov-Oct)	Supply / Allocation of Maize based ethanol (in cr. litres)	Quantity of Maize utilized/ to be utilized (in LMT)
2024-25	477.8	125.75
2025-26	478	125.78

As per the final estimates of production of foodgrains for the year 2024-25, production of Maize has increased substantially to about 434 LMT. The quantity of Maize is sufficient to cater the demand of ethanol production, poultry and other purposes. To maintain feed availability, the poultry feed industry is also adopting other domestically available ingredients such as Rice bran, Broken Rice, Bajra and Wheat offal.

(d) & (e): The Government accords the highest priority to food security in the country. Department of Food & Public Distribution regularly monitors/reviews the availability of foodgrains in the country and maintains the buffer stock of wheat and rice. Surplus FCI rice is being used for ethanol production, only when available in excess after maintaining buffer stocks and making provision for meeting the requirements of the Targeted PDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

Maize has emerged as the biggest feedstock for ethanol production and sufficient maize is available in the country even after utilization of maize as a feedstock for ethanol production.

Government is conducting study for feasibility of sweet sorghum as an alternate feedstock for production of ethanol to diversify the feedstock base for ethanol production.
