

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 999
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2025

FOOD WASTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

999. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether, as per the Food Waste Index Report 2024 of the UN Environment Programme, the estimated food waste at the household level in the country is 55 kg per capita per year, as compared to the global average of 79 kg per capita per year;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to include a chapter on prevention of food wastage in the school syllabi to sensitize students on the subject; and
- (c) whether Government campaigns through print and electronic media from time to time to sensitize people against food wastage, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L VERMA)

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

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

Further, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a social initiative known as “Save Food Share Food” to help promote the donation of surplus food and reduce food waste by integrating various food distribution agencies 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. A website (<https://sharefood.eatrightindia.gov.in>) was developed as a repository of information on this initiative. This website provides information related to the network on prevention of food waste, etc. FSSAI actively promotes this initiative at various platforms to sensitise citizens and food businesses, including caterers, about the donation and sharing of safe food.
