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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1012
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2026

LEAKAGE/DIVERSION OF PDS FOODGRAIN

1012 SHRI RAJEEV KUMAR:

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

(a) the current estimated leakage/diversion of PDS foodgrain, State-wise, and how it is measured;

(b) the reasons for persistence of significant leakage despite digitisation;

(c) whether further measures are planned to cut leakage/diversion;

(d) why storage losses persist and stocks pile up above norms at FCI godowns while eligible people remain excluded;

(e) whether the Ministry will consider putting Depot-wise loss and Stock data in public domain;

(f) what foodgrain storage and transit losses occurred in the last five years, and the current stock vs buffer norm; and

(g) whether any modernisation and stock-management effort are planned to cut losses?

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

(a) to (c): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains up to the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs, etc., rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

No specific report of leakage/diversion of PDS foodgrains has been received. However, as and when such complaints/grievances are received from any source, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

To improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the Public Distribution System (PDS), following steps have been taken by the Government:

i. Digitisation & Aadhaar seeding: Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.

ii. Transparency & grievance redressal: Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.

iii. Online allocation & supply chain computerisation: Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).

iv. ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level: 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.

v. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.

vi. Rightful Targeting (RT): A dedicated de-duplication and beneficiary-verification exercise using Aadhaar/PDS data analytics has led to the identification and deletion of ineligible/duplicate beneficiaries, with 5.95 Cr flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 Cr deleted beneficiaries.

vii. SMART-PDS reform initiative: Being implemented with modules for Ration Card Management, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal to further standardise and digitally integrate State-level TPDS operations.

viii. NIRMAL & SAKSHAM: New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration (including VLTS) from Procurement of food grains to Distribution to the beneficiaries (Saksham).

(d): FCI under the Government of India maintains foodgrain stocks for distribution under Government welfare schemes and for buffer and strategic reserves to ensure national food security. Due to procurement exceeding offtake in certain years, particularly in the case of rice, stocks may remain above the prescribed norms.

During long-term storage and multiple handling, a very small quantity of foodgrains is inevitably lost due to natural moisture reduction (driage), climatic conditions and multiple operational handling. However, such storage losses are kept at the barest minimum through scientific storage practices, regular monitoring, and effective operational controls.

Distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries is undertaken by the respective Governments/implementing agencies under the notified welfare schemes.

(e): FCI is committed to transparency and accountability in foodgrain management. Accordingly, all-India storage loss and transit loss figures giving an overall perspective are already placed on the FCI website and updated periodically.

(f): The All India Storage & Transit losses occurred in the last five years are as follows:

Storage losses (Wheat+Rice)

(Qty. in LMT)

Year	Quantity Issued	Quantity of Loss	% of Loss
2021-22	1420.63	-3.25	-0.23
2022-23	1183.78	-1.41	-0.12
2023-24	853.14	-1.87	-0.22
2024-25	805.03	-0.66	-0.08
2025-26	795.60	-0.14	-0.02
2026-27 (upto June 2026)	195.55	0.14	0.07

Transit Losses

Year	Quantity Moved	Quantity of Loss	% of Loss
2021-22	646.89	1.41	0.22
2022-23	572.59	1.30	0.23
2023-24	434.20	0.71	0.16
2024-25	423.83	0.73	0.17
2025-26	403.79	0.68	0.17
2026-27 (upto June 2026)	91.13	0.17	0.19

Note: (-) minus indicate Gain

The current stock vs buffer norms are as follow:

(in LMT)

As on	Foodgrains Stocking Norms	Current Stock in Central Pool
1st October 2025	307.70	676.43
1st January 2026	214.10	584.01
1st April 2026	210.40	604.02
1st July 2026	411.20	925.85

(g): FCI under the Government of India continuously undertakes modernization and stock-management measures to minimize storage losses. These include:

i. Construction of modern steel silos under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode for scientific bulk storage and handling, which improves preservation of foodgrains and significantly reduces losses due to handling, pilferage and transportation.

ii. Implementation of the SMART Warehouse pilot project in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), using IoT-based monitoring of temperature, humidity, gas levels, airflow, and pest activity for early detection and prevention of storage losses.

iii. Introduction of the Depot Darpan portal for digital self-assessment, rating and grading of FCI depots, and implementation of the ANNA DARPAN Inventory Management Module for digital inventory management and efficient resource utilization.

iv. Mandatory use of high-security tamper-proof cable seals conforming to IS 17381:2021 on railway wagons carrying foodgrains, which has resulted in about 92% reduction in the number of rakes reporting abnormal transit losses.

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