

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2015

WASTAGE OF FOOD

1536. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

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

- (a) the amount of processed and unprocessed food including foodgrains that are wasted in the country annually, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has drawn up a mechanism to reduce such wastage in future, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government engages with experts in both the national and international arena to systematically address the issue of wastage of foodgrains, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has set any targets in relation to curtailment of wastage of foodgrains; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

मिन्टर कनसुमर अफेयर्स, फूड अण्ड पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिबुशन
के अन्तर्गत प्रश्न संख्या 1536 का उत्तर निम्न है:

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) : No specific data is maintained centrally of processed and unprocessed food that is wasted in the country annually, State/ UT-wise. Statement on the storage loss, transit loss and damaged foodgrains is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) : Steps taken to control storage & transit losses in central pool foodgrains are at **Annexure-II**. Steps taken to avoid damage of central pool foodgrains during storage are at **Annexure-III**. A study on “storage losses in foodgrains in FCI & CWC warehouses and to recommend norms for storage losses in efficient warehousing management” has been assigned to Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, A ICAR Institute. The information regarding wastages of food witnessed especially during occasions like marriages, parties and meetings, in the country is at **Annexure-IV**.

(d) & (e) : Annual targets for restricting storage & transit losses in Central Pool foodgrains in FCI have been fixed. The target and achievement are at **Annexure-V**.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING WASTAGE OF FOOD.**STATEMENT ON STORAGE LOSS, TRANSIT LOSS AND DAMAGED FOODGRAINS****Storage Loss**

(Quantity in Lakh Tons)

Year	Qty of Loss	% of Loss
2012-13*	2.20	0.22
2013-14*	1.87	0.17
2014-15	0.06	0.01
2015-16 (upto Oct'15)	-0.20(Gain)	-0.04

* Audited Figure

Transit Loss

(Quantity in Lakh Tons)

Year	Qty of Loss	% of Loss
2012-13*	2.12	0.47
2013-14*	2.43	0.46
2014-15	2.37	0.47
2015-16 (upto Oct'15)	0.72	0.39

* Audited Figure

Damaged Foodgrains

Following table shows the trend of accrual of Non-Issuable food grains in FCI

(Quantity in Lakh Tons)

Year	Accrued Quantity of Damaged Foodgrains	%age of Damaged Food grains against offtake quantity
2012-13	0.03	0.01
2013-14	0.25	0.05
2014-15	0.19	0.04
2015-16 (As on 1-11-2015)	0.03	0.01

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING WASTAGE OF FOOD.

STEPS TAKEN TO CONTROL STORAGE & TRANSIT LOSSES IN CENTRAL POOL FOODGRAINS

Measures taken to minimize Storage losses

- Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of street lights for illumination of godowns and proper locking of the sheds are taken to secure the godowns.
- Security staff of FCI as well as other Agencies like Home Guards, Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of the stocks.
- Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force and State Armed Police has been done at some depots / godowns, which are vulnerable.
- FIRs have been lodged with the Police.
- • Security Inspections as well as surprise checks of the Depots are also conducted from time to time at various levels to detect and plug the security lapses.
- Special Squad checking at selected rail-heads, transshipment and destination/dispatch centers.
- Identification of vulnerable points.
- Inspection of Depots by Senior Officers of the HQs, Executive Directors (Zone) / General Managers (Region)/ Area Managers.
- Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of stocks, as prescribed.
- Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO principle.
- Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.
- Improvement in dunnage material.
- Ensuring proper quality checking of foodgrains at the time of procurement

Measures taken to minimize Transit losses

- Use of polythene sheet in railway wagons to retrieve the spilled-over grains has been introduced.
- Deployment of independent Consignment Certification Squad (ICCS) at the time of loading and unloading of rakes is being ensured.
- Identification of vulnerable points both at dispatching & recipient centers for intensive checking is being undertaken regularly by the field officers.
- Special squad checking at selected rail heads and destination /dispatch centers is being resorted to.
- Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue is being ensured.
- Disciplinary action is initiated against delinquents wherever abnormal and unjustified transit losses are reported.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING WASTAGE OF FOOD.

STEP TAKEN TO AVOID DAMAGE OF CENTRAL POOL FOODGRAINS DURING STORAGE

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be 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 to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING WASTAGE OF FOOD.

Wastage of food and Ostentatious Behaviour during Marriages/Parties/Meetings

No specific details have been maintained by the Government. The Central Government set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs to study the various aspects of food wastages witnessed especially during occasions like marriages/parties/meetings in the country and suggest ways and means to control it. Civil Supply/Food Secretaries of the four States viz. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamilnadu were also the member of the Committee. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 23.06.2011 wherein it was decided to take action on the following to begin with:

- (i) Awareness Campaign through audio visual publicity, use of consumer clubs in schools and colleges.
- (ii) To sensitize student community about the avoidable wastage.
- (iii) To identify the NGOs involved in collection of surplus food for distribution to the poor.
- (iv) To entrust Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) with the conduct of a survey on wastage so as to assess magnitude of the problem.

The IIPA conducted a preliminary study/survey on Assessment of Food Wastage and Ostentatious Behavior during social gatherings in the NCR of Delhi. In their Report the IIPA recommended, amongst others, mainly the need to develop awareness amongst the country's population through awareness campaigns, education, etc. the Report mentions the unsuitability of legal approach as solution to this problem since it is essentially a socio-cultural issue.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development and Education Ministers of all States/UTs were addressed vide the Department of Consumer Affairs letters dated 5th August 2011 for inclusion of a chapter in the social sciences on this issue in the curriculum of schools/colleges so that the children may become conscious of this issue from the growing age itself. In response, the Ministry of Human Resources Development informed that the matter was taken up with NCERT and CBSE. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 developed by NCERT cover new syllabi and textbooks in all the subjects for all stages of school education. "Food" is one among six common themes of the syllabus of Environmental Studies of class III-V. "Food" is also included from class VI-X in Science subject. The contents related to "Wastage of food" have already been included in the syllabus on Health and Physical Education as a compulsory subject upto Secondary Stage (Classes XI-XII) and focus has been made on avoiding wastage of food.

ANNEXURE-V

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING WASTAGE OF FOOD.

STATEMENT ON TARGET FOR RESTRICTING STORAGE LOSS AND TRANSIT LOSS IN CENTRAL POOL FOODGRAINS IN FCI.

Storage Loss

(Figures in percentage)

Year	MoU Target	Achievement
2012-13	0.22	0.22*
2013-14	0.22	0.17*
2014-15	0.21	0.01
2015-16	0.15	-0.04 (Gain) (upto Oct'15)

* Audited Figure

Transit Loss

(Figures in percentage)

Year	MoU Target	Achievement
2012-13	0.43	0.47*
2013-14	0.43	0.46*
2014-15	0.45	0.47
2015-16	0.42	0.39 (upto Oct'15)

* Audited Figure
