

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of foodgrains wasted during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quantity of foodgrains wasted is minimized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Some losses occur during transportation of foodgrains from farms to mandies/markets and from godowns to rail or road dispatch centres due to multiple handling, spillage, use of hooks by labour etc. An Expert Committee appointed by the Government reported in 1968 that the transportation losses in foodgrains from farms to markets/mandies was to the tune of 0.15%. The transit losses occurred in FCI during the last three years are given below:

Year	Transit losses in Lakh MTs	Loss %age of total foodgrains
1998-99	2.66	1.17
1999-2000	2.89	1.13
2000-2001	1.84	0.86

(c) FCI has taken following steps to minimize transit losses;

- (i) Adoption of 50 Kg capacity bags in a phased manner to avoid use to hooks.
- (ii) Encouraging double line machine stitching of bags.
- (iii) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.
- (iv) Squad inspection at selected rail heads transshipments and destination/dispatch centres.

Wheat export

2381. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exported wheat during 2001-2002 to various countries;

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether there are prospects of exporting ten million tonnes of wheat during 2002-2003;

(c) whether this has greatly affected the US chances of exporting wheat;

(d) if so, whether the countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and West Asia have given preference to the Indian wheat than the US; and

(e) if so, what are the efforts being made to export more wheat to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not possible to assess the prospects of exporting wheat during 2002-03 as the same would be a function of various factors including the international demand and supply situation. For the same reasons, it is also not possible to assess the impact this would have on US's chances of exporting wheat.

(d) Wheat has been exported from India to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and West Asia. Information about US wheat exports to these countries is not available.

(e) Wheat is not being directly exported by the Government of India. It has authorised the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to offer wheat from the Central Pool to interested parties for the purpose of export. The quantitative restrictions on the export of wheat have been lifted.

FDI in food sector

2382. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has opposed the proposal for FDI in food sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent Government have agreed to the proposal?