

However, in the independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution system across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have also brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has also been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States/UTs for distribution to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS. During the year 2011-12, the percentage of offtake of these foodgrains allocated for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories was 100% and 96% respectively.

Further, in order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on 31st August, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Strengthening and streamlining of the TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY Families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerisation of TPDS operations at various levels.

Damage of foodgrains in transporation

1276. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reports have been received regarding the damage of foodgrains during the inter-State transportation by road and rail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases reported and the quantum and value of foodgrains involved therein; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay in transportations along with the quantity of wheat and other foodgrains transported during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

However, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reported that during 2011-12, a meagre quantity of foodgrains accrued as damaged at various railheads during the inter-state transportation by road and rail in the following regions:

Gujarat: 6 Tons of rice (value Rs. 37350/-) accrued after salvaging of rain water affected bags at Railhead Siddhpur during June, 2011. The Handling and Transport (H and T) contractor has been found responsible and an amount of Rs. 3,75,815/- has been recovered from bills of contractor.

Uttar Pradesh: 15 Tons of wheat (Value Rs. 68625/-) was damaged during unloading of a rake received ex. Tapa (Punjab) due to rains at Railhead Naini, District Allahabad in the month of July, 2011. The CWC contractor was found negligent in handling and transportation of the stocks from Railhead to depot for which, an amount of Rs. 2,54,830/- has been recovered from CWC contractor.

Rajasthan: 11.31 Tons of wheat (value Rs. 51743/-) at Railhead Jalore was damaged as the stocks of wheat got affected due to rains during unloading of rakes in the month of July, 2011. The H and T contractor has been found responsible and an amount of Rs. 22750/- has been recovered from bills of contractor.

Bihar: Stocks of raw rice Grade A were water affected at Railhead, Saharsa due to rains and remained unlifted at Railhead for considerable time. On salvaging 330 bags of damaged rice have accrued at Railhead, Saharsa on 20.7.2011. Disciplinary action had already been initiated against FCI, Area Manager Saharsa.

Odisha: 6.0 Tons of wheat accrued as damaged at SWC Dumerpani ex-Karnal and 9.0 tons of wheat accrued as damaged at SWC Kantabanji ex-Malaut during 2011-12. Value of the damaged wheat is Rs. 82883/-. The reason is due to mission of wagon, for which claim of Rs. 79090/- at SWC Dumerpani and Rs. 205717/- at SWC Kantabanji have been lodged with Railways.

(c) FCI has reported that the reasons of delay in transportation has been due to blockage en-route and natural factors like Disaster, flood etc.

The movement of wheat/total foodgrains on all India basis of the last three years is as follows:

Commodity	(fig in lakh tons)					
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Plan	Dispatch	Plan	Dispatch	Plan	Dispatch
Wheat	161.32	141.94	188.22	158.97	165.50	136.97
TOTAL	312.30	275.83	362.97	305.29	353.62	294.74
FOODGRAINS						