

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.871
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024

TRANSIT LOSSES IN FOOD PROCUREMENT

871 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) the details of measures undertaken by the Ministry to address the issue of transit losses in food procurement considering the significant financial impact (FY2020 TO FY 2023) due to transit loss, if any;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to address complaints related to leakages, diversion of foodgrains and corruption in the foodgrain distribution system;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has any plans to strengthen its vigilance mechanism in coordination with States to ensure the proper functioning of monitoring mechanisms to plug the leakages?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The details of measures undertaken by the Government to address the foodgrains losses during transit, are as under:

- Transit Losses (TL) are reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meeting.
- Investigation of High TL at HQ/Zone/Region/District levels.

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- Spreading of Polythene Sheet on the floor of railway wagons to retrieve the spilled-over grains,
- Joint Verification (JV) of high TL cases to fix responsibility. The lower limit of TL for JV's has been reduced from 1% to 0.75% and further 0.50% w.e.f. 1.10.2022.
- Implementation of high security cable seals on wagons at the time of loading of foodgrains to avoid tempering en-route pilferage w.e.f. 01.01.2022. This led to 92% reduction in number of Rakes reporting abnormal TL *i.e.* more than 0.50%.
- Made-up bags accrued at railhead are being accounted.
- Disciplinary action against delinquents for abnormal/unjustified transit losses.
- Deployment of Independent Consignment Certification Squad (ICCS) at the time of loading /unloading.

(b) to (d): Under TPDS, every State Government is required to put in place an internal grievance redressal mechanism which may include call centres, help lines, designation of nodal officers, or such other mechanism as may be prescribed. Whenever any complaints are received in this Department from any source, they are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action at their end.

(e): The foodgrains issued to the State Governments is jointly inspected to ensure that the stock conforms to the standards. After full satisfaction of weight and quality standards, the stocks are taken over by the State Government representatives.
