

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2024

QUANTITY OF FOOD GRAIN WASTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

1626 SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has the data regarding the quantity of food grain wastage in the country due to inadequate storage facilities over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent the food wastage;
- (c) the steps that are being taken to ensure food safety and quality standards in the PDS; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry addressing issues related to adulteration and contamination of food?

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

(a) and (b): No wastage of central pool foodgrains has been reported in the country due to inadequate storage facility in the last three years.

(c): The Government has issued following instructions to State Governments/UTs and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS and other welfare schemes (OWS):

- a) Only good quality foodgrains, free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.
- b) The State Government/UT Administration has to inspect the stocks prior to the lifting of the same from the FCI godowns.

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- c) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected from foodgrains stocks to be issued under TPDS jointly by the FCI and the State Government/UT Administration in sealed packets.
 - d) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from the State Government to take delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
 - e) It is responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
 - f) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes should meet the standards under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 as amended from time to time.
- (d): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) through State/UTs and its regional offices conduct regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products including PDS, to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.
