

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1717  
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004  
LOSS DUE TO INADEQUATE TECHNOLOGY  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that huge quantum of food articles wasted every year due to inadequate technologies;
- (b) if so, whether there is a need to adopt technologies for extending the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables on one hand and proper processing of foodgrains on the other hand to check the wastage; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. According to available information, total wastage of agriculture produce is estimated at Rs.50,000 crore of which wastage in fruits and vegetables is estimated as high as 25% to 30%.

(b): There is need to adopt technology to create scientific storage to reduce wastage in oilseeds, pulses, foodgrains, etc. In case of fruits and vegetables, there is a need to develop post harvest technology and infrastructure of cold chain. Development of processed food industry will help in timely marketing of food products, thereby minimize the wastage.

(c): Several institutions such as the Commodity Specific Research Centres of Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Indian Agriculture Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities in the country etc. are engaged in developing appropriate and cost effective post harvest technologies. The National Horticultural Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection are providing financial assistance to promote various components of post harvest technologies such as establishment of rural godowns, Cold Chains, quality control, packaging, processing, transportation etc. for improvements in domestic and export marketing.

In order to give boost to agro-processing industries, the Central Government has made announcement in Parliament on 08.07.2004, to provide various tax benefits and reduction in excise duty to promote the development of Food Processing Industries, Dairy machinery, edible oil and Meat, Poultry and Fish products.