

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:621
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
MARKETING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to assist State Government to organize marketing of fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the fund earmarked therefore and the allocation made to different States for the purpose in the current financial year 2007-08;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to create additional storage facilities for preserving fruits and vegetables?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (d): Under the Central Sector Scheme titled " Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardization" being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), credit linked back-ended subsidy is provided on capital investment to the private agencies and direct assistance is provided to the State agencies which do not require Bank credit for setting up of functional infrastructure and for development market user common facilities or direct marketing facilities as well as for mobile infrastructure for post harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) to facilitate marketing of fruits and vegetables. Under the Scheme, assistance can be provided for creating additional storage facilities for preserving fruits & vegetables. During the current financial year i.e 2007-08, an allocation of Rs.62.50 crore is available in the Plan Budget of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for this Scheme.

Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE) in a Mission Mode with an end to end approach for holistic development of horticulture including marketing and storage of fruits and vegetables in the Region. Under Mini Mission III of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, funds have been earmarked during the current Fiscal Year 2007-08 for marketing purpose as given below:-

N.E. States - Rs.5.00 crores
J&K, HP & Uttarakhand - Rs.3.00 crores.

Under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE), assistance is being provided to States for strengthening storage facilities in the Region through National Horticulture Board.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries through its plan schemes has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing industries including cold storages, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere facility and cold storages as integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Park. During the Tenth Plan, the Ministry has implemented a scheme for cold chain facilities whereunder assistance upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs.75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies. During the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry proposes to launch a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels - farm level primary processing center-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.