

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:262

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High-Level Expert Committee set up by the Government to examine and report on the issues relating to cold storage facilities in the country has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient recommendations made by the said Committee alongwith the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2009.

(a) to (c): A Task Force on Development of Cold Chain in India was set up in May 2007 by Ministry of Agriculture in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for developing a Cold Chain Development Roadmap in the country. The Task Force submitted its report in August 2008.

The salient recommendations made by the Task Force include-

(i) Establishment of Special Purpose Vehicle for Cold Logistics of Refrigerated containers and insulated pre-cooled vans as well as creation of National Green Grid to develop an end-to-end transport network linking production centers of perishable agricultural commodities to far off consumption centers.

(ii) Establishment of Integrated Multi Product Multi Purpose Commodity Complex (Mega Perishable Commodity Complex) at major Consumption cum Export centers.

(iii) Establishment of Information Technology (IT) based Market Information and Management System.

(iv) Drawing up standards and protocols for cold chain infrastructure and processes,

(v) Cold chain industry may be given the status of infrastructure industry and allowed relevant Tax benefits.

(vi) Creation of additional Cold chain infrastructure such as Controlled Atmospheric Facilities, Ripening Chambers as well as creation and modernization of Cold Storages in the country through participation of private sector,Co-operatives and Public Sector Undertakings.

(vii) Establishment of National Centre for Cold Chain Development as autonomous centre with support from industry to coordinate overall development of Cold Chain in the Country.

Based on the report of the Task force, Government has taken following steps for implementation of the recommendations:-

(i) Central Warehousing Corporation has been designated as nodal agency to take action for setting up of Special Purpose Vehicle for Cold Logistics, creation of Integrated Multi Product Multi Purpose Commodity Complex as well as to develop software for commissioning of IT based Market Information and Management System.

(ii) A Technical Standard Committee has been set up to draw up the technical standards and protocols for cold chain infrastructure in the country. The committee has finalized the technical standards and protocols for the cold storage for commodities not requiring pre-cooling.

(iii) Investment-linked tax incentives have been announced for the business of setting up and operating cold chain, warehousing facilities for storing agricultural produce in the Union Budget 2009-10.

(iv) Under the schemes of National Horticulture Mission, financial assistance of Rs44.87 crore has been provided for establishment of 156 cold storages from 2005-06 to 2009-10. Under NHM, a new scheme of Terminal Market Complex has been approved by Government to link farmers to markets by shortening supply chain of perishables with provision of state of the art technology for infrastructure which includes cold chain logistics. National Horticulture Board has provided assistance for establishment of 2172 number of cold storages with eligible subsidy of Rs 604,60 crore from 1999-2000 to 2009-10.

(v) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a scheme for cold chain, value addition and preservation infrastructure whereby financial assistance is provided for strengthening of cold chain infrastructure etc, and has accorded approval to 10 cold chain projects during 2008-09 in States of Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana.

(vi) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under Ministry of Commerce & Industry also provides assistance for setting up of integrated pack house which includes pre-cooling, sorting, grading and cold storage facilities. Under this scheme, capacity of 9700 MT has been created with assistance of Rs.35.35 crore in 2008-09.