

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
POST HARVEST LOSSES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had made any assessment on post harvest losses of fruits, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome of the assessment;
- (c) whether the Government has developed any technology to reduce post harvest losses in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Agriculture conducted a Millennium Study, State of the Indian Farmers in the year 2004. The commodity-wise details of estimated post-harvest and storage losses are given at Annexure – I.

In order to promote post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, the Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act in 2003 having provision of Direct Marketing, Contract Farming and setting up of markets in Private and Co-operative sector etc. The model Act was circulated to all the States for adoption. The status of the market reforms by various States is at Annexure-II.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a reformed linked central sector scheme of credit-linked back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy for Development/Strengthening of agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization. Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a credit-linked back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme of Construction of Rural Godown with the objectives of creating scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, etc. Ministry of Agriculture also provides assistance for imparting training and demonstrations for post harvest technology machines.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed several technologies to reduce the post-harvest losses. Some of the salient technologies developed are: Fruit Collector cum grader, mobile cool chamber for fruits and vegetables, mechanical device for detection of insects in stored grains, modified atmospheric packaging for fruits, vegetables, shrink wrap packaging etc.

ANNEXURE – I

Estimates of Post-Harvest and Storage Losses (in percentage)

Commodity Minimum Maximum Average

Foodgrains#			
Wheat	5.0	9.0	7.0
Rice	2.0	6.5	4.2
Maize	9.0	11.0	10.0
Barley	1.5	2.5	2.0
Milletts	N.A.	N.A.	5.0
Pulses	6.0	12.0	9.0

Fruits##				
Citrus	20.0	95.0	57.5	
Apple	N.A	N.A	14.0	
Banana	20.0	90.0	50.0	
Grapes	N.A	N.A	27.0	
Papaya	40.0	100.0	70.0	

Vegetables##				
Potato	5.0	40.0	22.5	
Onion	16.0	35.0	25.5	
Cabbage	N.A	N.A	37.0	
Cauliflower	N.A	N.A	49.0	
Tomato	5.0	50.0	27.5	

Losses during storage in the marketing chain. ## Post-harvest losses.

Source: State of the Indian Farmer – A Millennium Study (2004)

ANNEXURE – II

Status of reforms in agricultural marketing (APMC Act) as on 31st December, 2009

Sl. No.	Stage of Reforms	States/Union Territories
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1.	States/UTs where reforms to their APMC Act have been done	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura.
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2.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done partially	a) Director Marketing: NCT of Delhi. b) Contract Farming: Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh. c) Private Markets: Punjab and Chandigarh.
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3.	States/UTs where there is no APMC Act, and hence not requiring reforms	Kerala, Manipur, Bihar#, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep.
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4.	States/UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms	Tamil Nadu
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5.	States/UTs where administrative action has been initiated for reforms	Mizoram, Meghalaya, Haryana, Jammu and
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Kashmir, Uttarakhand,
Uttar Pradesh, West
Bengal, NCT of Delhi and
Pondicherry.