

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2566
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
COLD STORAGES
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the absence of proper and required number of cold storages in the country including Punjab, vegetables and fruits worth crores of rupees got destroyed, while the prices of vegetables and fruits always remain high in the market;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up a chain of cold storages in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to grant concessions so as to encourage the farmers and the businessmen to construct cold storages; and
- (f) 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): An Expert Committee was constituted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 1998 to review the cold storages facilities in the country and assess the requirements of additional capacity etc. with a view to minimize the post-harvest losses. As per the report of the Committee, the estimated loss of fruit and vegetables is between 25 to 30 per cent due to the lack of adequate infrastructure including cold storages.

However, the price of fruits and vegetables depend on demand and supply situations, type of marketing channel followed, quality of produce, handling and transport of perishable produce.

(c) to (f): The Government has taken a number of initiatives for development of marketing infrastructure including cold storages and cold chain infrastructure in the country by way of providing assistance through various schemes to Public Sector agencies, private entrepreneurs including farmers and businessmen etc.

Under the scheme of National Horticulture Mission, assistance is provided for development of post harvest management including cold storage for credit-linked back-ended subsidy @ 40% of the project cost in general areas and @55% of project cost in the Hilly and schedule areas except eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Under the scheme of Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided for creation/ modernization/expansion of cold storage @ 50% of the project cost with a cost ceiling of Rs 6000/MT capacity of cold storages. The scheme is demand driven and is being implemented in all North East and Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction /Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and storages for Horticulture Produce", under which, credit-linked back-ended subsidy @ 40% of capital cost of project in general areas and @55% of capital cost of project in Hilly and scheduled areas is provided up to a maximum capacity of 5000 MT per project.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme "Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure" for providing financial assistance to project proposals received from public sector / private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @75% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crore.

Agricultural Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce provides financial assistance to its registered exporter under scheme for infrastructure Development for setting up integrated pack house with cold store facilities. In

addition, APEDA also extends assistance to Public Sector Undertakings for setting up common infrastructure facilities viz. Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) at major international airports, integrated pack house with cold store facilities.