

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011
POST HARVEST INFRASTRUCTURE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is inadequate postharvest infrastructural facilities in the country due to which the interests of the farmers in fruits and vegetable trade are adversely affected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether farmers face difficulty in availing post-harvest infrastructural facilities like harvesting, cold storage, grading, packaging, etc.; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome these hurdles and improve the post-harvest infrastructural facilities?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (c): Due to supply chain inefficiency and inadequate infrastructure, there are post harvest losses of horticulture crops which affects the interests of farmers who face difficulty in availing infrastructure facilities.

(d): Government is implementing various programmes to overcome these hurdles and improve the post harvest infrastructure facilities.

(i) Under the schemes of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to development of marketing infrastructure and post harvest management including cold storages, CA/MA storages, ripening chambers, pre-cooling units, primary processing, functional infrastructure for sorting, grading and packing etc for horticulture crops. For the development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure, subsidy @ 40% (for general areas) and 55% (for hilly and tribal areas) of capital cost of the project is available for both public and private sector enterprises. The subsidy for the private sector is credit linked and back-ended.

(ii) National Horticulture Board (NHB) provides back-ended capital investment subsidy to the eligible organizations for creation / modernization /expansion of cold storage/Controlled Atmosphere Storage @ 40% of the project cost. For North-Eastern Regions, the subsidy is @ 55% of the project cost with a cost ceiling of Rs. 3.00 crore for 5000 MT. The scheme is demand driven and is being implemented across the country.

(iii) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/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% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc.

(iv) APEDA operates a financial assistance scheme for development of Infrastructure under which assistance is provided to individual entrepreneurs and State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous bodies for establishment of common infrastructure facilities by setting up integrated pack house which includes pre cooling, sorting grading and cold storage facilities.