

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:939
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011
TRANSIT LOSS OF PERISHABLE CROPS
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 20 per cent of foodgrains and 30 per cent of perishable crops are lost during transit from production centers to marketing points;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future in coordination with States?

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) & (b): There is no specific study conducted on loss of perishable crops during transit from production centres to marketing points. However, as per the report of Indian Council of Agricultural Research on `Estimation of Quantitative Harvest and Post Harvest Losses of Major Agricultural Produce in India`, conducted during 2005-2007, estimated losses on account of transportation of selected cereals and pulses ranges from 0.1 - 0.2%. As per the aforesaid study, the same varies from 0.4% to 3.1% for selected vegetables, while it ranges from 1.1% to 2.8% for selected fruits.

(c): In order to develop efficient post-harvest infrastructure and supply chain with a view to reduce the losses including transit loss, Ministry of Agriculture has circulated the Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act 2003 (APMC Act) to all the States and Union territories for adopting the same in their respective State APMC Act. The status of market reform is at Annexure.

In order to develop the required post harvest and marketing infrastructure and supply chain in the country, the Government is implementing various plan schemes. Under the schemes of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), financial assistance is provided for development of post-harvest management infrastructure. It includes assistance for establishment of cold chain facilities and other marketing infrastructure including development of Rural Primary Markets, Wholesale Markets and Terminal Market Complex for efficient marketing of perishable horticultural and other agricultural produce. Further, a scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing, Grading and Standardisation has been introduced to promote marketing infrastructure and value addition to agricultural commodities including that of food grains.