

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2524  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011  
SETTING UP OF COLD CHAINS IN NER  
Rai Shri Prem Das

**Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any specific plan to reduce wastage of agricultural commodities grown in the North Eastern Region (NER) by providing adequate food processing facilities in the region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up cold chains in the North Eastern Region for fruits, vegetables, fish and other perishable food items; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) through its various schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of post harvest processing infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

(b): Ministry extends financial support under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries to entrepreneurs through out the country for vegetables and fruits as well as other sectors namely dairy, consumer and bakery, grain milling, meat and poultry, wine, fish processing. For the North Eastern Region, the Ministry extends grant-in-aid @ 33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs.

Under the Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 75% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works is provided by the Ministry 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.

Under the scheme of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MM-IV) in North Eastern Region included Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand higher level of financial assistance is provided than the normal plan schemes of the Ministry in the form of credit linked and back ended subsidy. All implementing agencies are eligible for 50% of the cost of equipments subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore for promotion of new unit and 50% upto a maximum of Rs. 1.00 crore for upgradation/modernization of units.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Ministry during 2011-12 in the North Eastern Region has approved 1 project each in the state of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland for creation of integrated cold chain facilities. The products covered under these projects are fruits, vegetables, fish etc.