

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4469
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
POST HARVEST AGRICULTURE LOSSES
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to contain post harvest agriculture losses due to poor storage and delay in transportation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give incentive/subsidy to the farmers to establish their own storage facility; 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): Yes, Madam.

(b): The steps taken to contain post harvest agriculture losses due to poor storage and delay in transportation are as under:

(i) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a credit-linked back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme of Construction of Rural Godown. The main objectives of the Scheme is to create scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc. Under this scheme, subsidy @ 25% is given to all categories of farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives & Central Warehousing Corporations/ State Warehousing Corporations. All other categories of individuals, companies and corporations are eligible for subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. Subsidy @ 33.33% is given in the case of North Eastern States/hilly areas & SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives as well as women farmers.

(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. The scheme provides assistance in the form of subsidy for setting up infrastructural facilities for post harvest operations of agricultural and allied commodities. Subsidy is provided @25% of capital cost of the project subject to maximum of Rs.50 lakh for each project. Subsidy is given @ 33.33% for North East States, hilly and tribal areas and in the states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and to SC/ ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives subject to maximum of Rs.60 lakh for each project. There is no upper ceiling on subsidy in respect of infrastructure project of State Agencies. Assistance is also available for mobile infrastructure for post harvest namely Reefer vans or any other refrigerated vans used for transporting agricultural produce.

(iii) Under National Horticulture Mission financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to horticulture including development of Post Harvest Management and Marketing Infrastructure etc. For the development of Post Harvest Management and marketing infrastructure, subsidy @ 25% of capital cost of the project for General Areas and 33.33% of capital cost of the project for Hilly and Tribal Areas is available to both public and private sector enterprises. The subsidy for the private sector is credit-linked and back-ended.

(iv) The Ministry is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim". The scheme aims to create infrastructural facilities for post harvest management, marketing and export. For the post harvest management, the following assistance is being provided:

Credit linked back ended Capital investment subsidy for cold storage @ 33.33% of project cost up to Rs. 2.00 crore.

Credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy scheme for Controlled Atmospheric (CA) storage @ 33.33% of the project cost up to Rs. 16.00 crore/unit.

(v) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant in aid @ 50% of the total cost of the 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 infrastructure facilities.

(vi) The Department of Food and Public distribution has set up grain storage, research and training centre for carrying out applied research and training activities in the field of scientific storage of food grains to minimize post harvest losses in food grain. The Department of Food and Public Distribution, through Food Corporation of India (FCI), has taken various steps to reduce/contain storage and transit losses of food grains namely security and safety of storage complex, quality control measures and safeguards for movement and storage.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): Under the Central Sector Scheme of Construction of Rural Godowns, farmers are eligible for setting up of godowns for which subsidy @ 25% is available subject to maximum of Rs.50 lakh for each project. Subsidy is given @ 33.33% for farmers in North East States/hilly areas & SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives as well as women farmers, subject to maximum of Rs.60 lakh for each project.