

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:119

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

WASTAGE OF FARM PRODUCE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a report by the Central Institute of Post Harvesting Engineering and Technology on farm produce wastage;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the said report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes,Madam.A study of the quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of major crops and livestock produce was carried out. The final report of the study has been submitted in September, 2010.

(b) The survey on estimation of post harvest losses was undertaken in 106 districts of India with respect to 46 crops and commodities comprising 5 cereals, 4 pulses, 6 oilseeds, 8 fruits, 8 vegetables, 8 plantation crops and spices, 6 livestock produce and jaggery. The data collected by enquiry and by observations in the field were scrutinized and statistically analyzed to arrive at the overall estimates of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses at national level.

The operations considered for assessment of losses were harvesting, collection, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation and storage depending upon the commodity.

The report contains mainly the estimate of losses at the farm, storage, transport and processing which are major stages of post harvest handling. There are many other post harvest loss components which have not been covered. There is long supply chain from farm gate through small traders, wholesalers and retailers to reach the consumer. At each change of hand, losses might be taking place; however, it was not in the scope of this study to account for them.

The estimated average annual losses are given in the Annexure-I.

(c) ICAR carries out research to develop and introduce technology for reduction of post harvest losses.

The findings of the report are kept in mind while doing so, and are also utilized in policy formulation by the Ministry.