

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:139

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

POST HARVEST LOSSES OF FOODGRAINS

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the post harvest losses of major foodgrains in various States/ Union Territories at present as compared to the corresponding period during the last two years;
- (b) the scientific measures adopted by the Government to reduce these losses; and
- (c) the success achieved in reducing post harvest losses alongwith the quantity of foodgrains saved during the above period?

**Answer**

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

(a): The recent study available on post-harvest losses of major agricultural commodities titled as 'Estimation of Quantative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Agricultural Produce in India' was conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (CIPHET, Ludhiana) during 2005-07 (published in April 2010). Ministry of Agriculture also conducted a Millennium Study, State of the Indian farmers in the year 2004 on dynamics of Post-harvest losses.

The comparative commodity-wise details of post-harvest losses of major foodgrains are given in Annexure.

(b): The Ministry of Agriculture has taken a number of steps to address the problem of post-harvest losses by way of improving the infrastructural facilities through introducing capital investment subsidy schemes and bringing reforms in agricultural marketing sector so as to facilitate private sector to encourage investment required for development of post-harvest infrastructure.

The Ministry has launched central sector schemes of National Horticulture Mission, National Horticulture Board, Development/Strengthening of Agriclural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization and Gramin Bhandaran Yojana for development of various types of post-harvest and storage infrastructures nearer to the farmers' field and in the supply chain to provide adequate post-harvest and scientific storage facilities for arresting losses.

The Ministry has also launched Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network since March 2000 with an objective to collect and disseminate price and market related information in respect of different agricultural commodities for the benefit of farmers. The scheme facilitates the farmers in taking the better post-harvest and marketing decisions which in turn helps to reduce the post- harvest losses.

(c): The table given at Annexure clearly indicates that there has been reduction in the quantum of losses indicated in the stury reported in the Millennium study, 2004 vis-Ã -vis ICAR study, 2010. Data on foodgrains saved during this period is not available.