

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:87
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether most of the farmers in the country are still practising primitive system of preserving their agricultural produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to seek assistance from developed countries for promoting the latest technology in preserving the agricultural produce;
- (d) if so, the assistance sought and provided, country-wise; and
- (e) the incentives provided/proposed to be provided to the farmers for adopting latest technology in preservation of their agricultural produce?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 87 FOR ANSWER ON 20.3.2012 REGARDING PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

(a): Farmers of the country are storing agricultural produce using different methods including modern storage systems.

(b): A study conducted by the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL) in December, 2010 analyzed production, consumption and shelf life pattern of major fruits and vegetables. The Study has estimated cold storage requirements of 61.13 million tonnes in the country. The present capacity of cold storage has been worked out at 23.51 million MT. The cold storage gap of about 38 million metric tons has been worked out on the basis of peak season production and highest arrival/harvesting of storable fruits and vegetables in a month.

(c): There is no proposal of Government to seek assistance from developed countries for latest technology in preserving the agricultural produce. However, as per the prevalent policy technology can be transferred through commercial channels.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas, and @ 75% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in 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. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticultural Mission (NHM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.