

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:450

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

WASTAGE OF FOODGRAINS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that more quantity of vegetables and fruits are wasted in India as compared to foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether lack of cold storages, transportation facilities, bad road conditions, adverse climatic conditions and corruption are the main reasons for the mess;
- (d) if so, the details of the remedial action being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has received a proposal for a pilot project of Field Approach Road in Jalgaon area in Maharashtra keeping in view the wastage of foodgrains, vegetables and fruits;and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d) As per report of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on estimation of quantitative harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produce in India from 2005 to 2007, the losses for selected cereals, constituting 94% of the national cereal production, are in the range of 2.8% to 4.7%, while in the case of pulses, it is 3.4% to 5.0%. The losses in selected fruits and vegetables are in the range of 5.8% to 18.0%.

Due to long and fragmented supply chain with inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, especially those of cold storages and cold chain logistics, lack of proper transport facility and poor road connectivity from farm gate to end users, there are high wastages of agricultural produce in the country. Since, fruits and vegetables are perishable in nature, therefore, they are prone to higher percentage of losses than foodgrains. Untimely rain and unfavourable weather conditions increase the wastages of agricultural produce more so, fruits and vegetables.

The Government has taken a number of steps to address the problem of post-harvest wastages by way of improving the infrastructural facilities through bringing reforms in agricultural marketing sector so as to facilitate private sector to encourage investment required for development of post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure nearer to farmers' field, which will also facilitate to shorten the supply chain. Central sector schemes are being implemented to provide investment subsidy on market infrastructure development projects under the reform linked scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). Scheme of 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' is also being implemented for development of storage infrastructure nearer to the farmers' field to provide adequate scientific storage facilities for arresting losses to farmers in terms of wastage in quantity and quality of produce in general.

(e) & (f) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has not received such proposal.