

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1218

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009

COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

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

- (a) whether lack of adequate cold storage facilities is resulting in loss of upto 30 per cent of the farm products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the cold storage facilities and to improve the capacity utilisation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) to (e): As per the Report of Task Force constituted by Ministry of Agriculture on Development of Cold Chain in India, the wastage of horticulture produces ranges from 30-40%, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, multi-layered marketing channel etc.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public / private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages 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% 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 infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

As per the information available with Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.12.2008 was 5386 having total capacity of 23.66 million MT. State-wise and capacity-wise details are given in the Annexure.