

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6527
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE COOPERATIVES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of fruits and vegetables that perish every year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a fruit and vegetable cooperative on the lines of milk cooperatives;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to ensure that the farmers get remunerative price for their produce and the middlemen are eliminated; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): As per the report of Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology CIPHET) published in September, 2012, annual wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated to range from 5.8% to 18%.

(b) to (e): There is no proposal to setup fruit & vegetable cooperatives on the line of milk cooperatives. However, under the scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), assistance is being provided for forming Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) & Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and their tie-up with Financial Institutions and Aggregators for aggregation of produce, transport, processing, storage and sale at remunerative prices.

In addition, assistance for setting up infrastructure for marketing of horticulture produce is provided under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH) and Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC). This Ministry has taken up the issue of amendments to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts on the line of Model Act 2003 with States/UTs, which inter-alia provides for direct marketing, farmers/consumers markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and e-trading, etc.

These reforms will provide alternate marketing channels to farmers besides ensuring greater transparency.