

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4652
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
STUDY ON PRODUCTION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the study undertaken by the National Spot Exchange Limited, a joint venture of Financial Technologies (India) Limited and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India on production, consumption and shelf-life pattern of major fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the study along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has informed that the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) is not a joint venture company of NAFED and that the NAFED has not undertaken any study of production, consumption and shelf-life pattern of fruits and vegetables in the country.

However, the NSEL in its study (December, 2010) entitled "Cold Chain Grid In India" estimated cold storage requirements of 61.13 million tonnes while analysing production, consumption and shelf life pattern of major fruits and vegetables against available capacity of 23.51 million tonnes. The cold storage gap of about 38 million tonnes has been worked out on the basis of peak season production and highest arrival/harvesting of storable fruits and vegetables in a month.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing the Scheme for cold chain, value addition and preservation infrastructure. The Scheme 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 gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging, processing and preservation of horticultural and non horticultural products.

Other agencies of Government like National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the State Governments also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective Schemes. "Creation and management of cold chain infrastructure" for agriculture has been identified a thrust area by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.