

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3870

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to create awareness amongst the farmers to preserve their perishable agricultural produce and thereby promoting food processing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to create linkages between farmers and Food Producing Industries to reduce the wastage of perishable agricultural commodities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved by the Government in financial terms in preserving perishable agricultural commodities during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Ministry of food Processing Industries participates in seminars, conferences and exhibitions organized by Industry associations, farmers groups and other stakeholders to make them aware of the importance of preserving perishable agriculture produce and need to enhance food processing and value addition.

Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme-Cold chain, Value addition and Preservation Infrastructure with an objective of providing integrated and complete cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break from farm gate to the consumer. Under this scheme the cold chain projects can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/ State PSUs, etc.

Ministry also launched a New Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 12th Five Year Plan through State/ UT Governments. Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructures for Non-Horticultural Products is one of the Schemes of the Mission. All the States/UTs have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under various schemes of the Mission including Cold Chain for Non-Horticultural Products. Mission also provides flexibility to State / UT Governments in the selection of beneficiaries, location / region of the projects etc. for the development of cold chains as per their local requirements.

(c) & (d): In order to ensure linkages between farmers and food processing industries for reducing the wastages of perishable agricultural commodities, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under scheme of cold chain infrastructure which enables the farmers' clusters to have a Minimal Processing Centre at the farm level having facilities for weighing, sorting, grading, packing, pre-cooling, chilling, cold storage and Individually Quick Freezing (IQF) for their harvested produce. In-addition, such agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Governments also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

Under the Mission, financial assistance is also provided to individual entrepreneurs, farmers, group of entrepreneurs, farmers association, co-operative societies, self-help groups and NGOs to set up Primary Processing Centre in rural areas for creation of effective backward linkages by providing primary processing and preservation facilities at village level which will result in enhancement of shelf life of perishables and remunerative prices to the farmers. The Scheme envisages grant-in-aid @ 50 % of eligible project cost for general areas and 75 % in North-East ITDP and Difficult Areas (NE States including Sikkim, notified ITDP areas and hilly States like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand), subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.50 Crores per project.

(e):Government have created Cold Chain/Cold Storage Infrastructure capacity for storage of 86.17 Lakh Metric Tonnes with financial assistance of Rs. 830.87 Crores during the 11th Plan period and 8.72 lakh Metric Tonnes storage capacity with financial assistance of Rs. 210.77Crores during the financial year 2012-13.