

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:863
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
POOR POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which fruits and vegetables go waste due to Poor post-harvest technologies and supply chain inefficiency in the farm sector; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): On an average, post harvest losses for horticultural crops, range from 10 to 30 percent largely due to supply chain inefficiency and inadequate infrastructure.

(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'National Horticulture Mission (NHM)' in the country, during the Xth Plan with effect from 2005-06, for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring horizontal and vertical linkages with the active participation of all the stake-holders. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal which have been covered under the Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to horticulture including development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure etc.

For the development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure, subsidy @ 25% (for general areas) and 33.33% (for hilly and tribal areas) of capital cost of the project is available for both public and private sector enterprises. The subsidy for the private sector is credit linked and back-ended. Assistance is also available for establishment of rural primary markets, whole sale markets and terminal markets. Under TMNE Scheme assistance is available at 50% of capital cost of the projects related to processing and marketing infrastructure.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticultural produce through the scheme - 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce' having the same norms as NHM scheme and 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management' providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs.30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal areas and Rs.25.00 lakhs for other areas.