

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:867
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
SHORTAGE OF PRESERVATION FACILITIES
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of agricultural produce gets wasted every year due to shortage of preservation facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced a new programme to preserve agro-products by increasing the preservation capacity in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the time by which the programme is likely to be implemented?

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) & (b): Yes, Madam. A Millenium Study, `State of the India Farmer` was conducted in the year 2004. The study indicates that about 7% of food-grains and 30% of fruits and vegetables are lost due to inadequate handling facilities.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country, during the X 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. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to infrastructure etc. for the development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure, Credit linked back-ended 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.

To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries 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 organisations 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. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been mandated to take up 10 such project proposals in first phase, which can be up-scaled to total 30 projects during the 11th Plan period on successful progress in the initial 10 projects. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has already accorded approval to 10 cold chain projects during 2008-09 in States i.e. Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana.

(e): These are ongoing schemes.