

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:40

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

WASTAGE OF AGRO -PRODUCTS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that about 30 per cent of fruits and vegetables grown in the country got wasted annually due to lack of cold storages and cold chain;
- (b) if so, the details of the different agro products wasted during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the wastage by establishing cold chains, processing facilities and ripening chambers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering use of refrigerated containers with solar photovoltaic panels fixed on their roof tops and independent of power grid to transport freshly harvested produce, strategically placed at various locations in farms across the country and to close gaps in the cold chain; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the assistance provided by the Government to various States in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a): A study published in 2012 by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, estimated overall losses in fruits and vegetables during operations including harvesting, cleaning, sorting/ grading, packaging, transportation, storage channels, weight loss in storage etc. to be in the range of 5.8 to 18%.

(b): The details of harvest and post harvest losses of major agricultural crops and commodities estimated by this study are at Annexure-I.

(c): Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food Processing & Industries and Ministry of Commerce and Industry are implementing programmes for establishment of cold chains, processing facilities and ripening chambers.

i) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides credit linked back ended subsidy to encourage private investment for creation of post-harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere infrastructure, reefer vans and ripening chambers. Credit linked back ended subsidy at 35% of the project cost in general areas and at 50% in hilly and scheduled areas is available to entrepreneurs, cooperatives, FPOs and companies.

ii.) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) provides assistance for establishing integrated cold chain, value addition and preservation infrastructure facilities from farm gate to consumers. Assistance is available at 50% of total cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% in difficult areas subject to maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore/project.

iii.) Ministry of Commerce through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides assistance at 25% for cost of cold chain equipment subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakh per beneficiary for the units related to export activity.

(d) & (e): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for promotion of use of multi model refrigerated containers and renewable energy in cold chain. As per the MIDH operating guidelines support is available as per the table below:

S.No.	Item	Description	Admissible cost
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1	Reefer container chassis trailers.	Reefer container for use on existing foot container	Maximum Rs. 6 lakh/ 9 MT (20)
		For add-on technology, credit linked back ended subsidy shall be provided at 35% in general area and 50% percent of maximum capital cost in hilly and schedule area.	

2. Alternate technology Vapour Absorption, phase change 100% cost as per invoice, including material, solar PV panels of solar maximum Rs. 35 lakh per project. photovoltaic (PV) thermal systems.
panels