

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:288

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of post-harvest losses is very high in agricultural sector including horticulture, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Dr. Saumitra Choudhuri Committee set up to examine investment in supply chains including provision for cold storages for efficient distribution of farm production, has submitted its report, if so, the terms of reference, findings and major recommendations of the Committee;
- (c) the follow-up action taken thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the cold storage network along with funds made available and utilized under various schemes and number of cold storages set up during the last three years and the current year, Sector-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 288 DUE FOR REPLY ON 17TH MARCH, 2015.

(a): A study published in 2012 by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), estimated that quantum of post harvest losses of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables were in the range of 1.1% to 18.05%. The post harvest losses are due to unsuitable technologies used for harvesting, post-harvest handling, storage, processing and inadequate supply chain infrastructure. The details of harvest and post harvest losses of major agricultural crops and commodities estimated by this study are at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): The Planning Commission constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member Planning Commission on "Encouraging Investments in Supply Chains including Provision for Cold Storages for More Efficient Distribution of Farm Produce" which submitted its report in May, 2012. The terms of reference of the committee were (i) to assess the existing framework of supply chains, including cold storages, in respect of farm products, (ii) to make an assessment of the future requirements over the next 6 years, (iii) to lay down a policy frame work by which the supply chains can be dovetailed with the organized retail chains to achieve quicker and more efficient distribution of farm products and minimize wastage and (iv) to recommend on policy initiatives, suitable schemes and investments required for this purpose. A gist of recommendations is at Annexure - II.

Government is implementing various programmes to encourage private investment for creation of post-harvest infrastructure including establishment and modernization of cold storages, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans and setting up of ripening chambers. Assistance ranging from 35% to 50% is available for these activities under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing schemes to provide integrated cold chain and processing facilities from farm gate to consumers. The component of cold storage under these programmes is project based and demand driven.

The details of cold storages and assistance sanctioned during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure - III.