

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1182
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Post Harvest Management
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an estimated 3.9-6% losses in foodgrains can be saved by adopting appropriate post harvest management practices such as harvesting, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/ cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation and storage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government towards improving the post-harvest management practices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

???? ???????? ??? ?????? ?????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): The Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its Report of 2012 on "Assessment of harvest and post harvest losses of major crops and commodities in India" has estimated that the overall losses in food grains range between 3.9-6.0 % occurring at different stages of post harvest operations such as harvesting, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation and storage, depending upon the commodity. These losses can be avoided to a great extent by adopting the appropriate post-harvest technology coupled with good pre and post-harvest management practices.

(c): The Government has taken several steps for improving the post-harvest management practices viz. (i) Creation of various types of marketing infrastructure projects like cleaning, grading, standardization, quality certification, warehouses, agribusiness etc to reduce post-harvest losses at various stages of marketing functions. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) provides financial assistance through Schemes like Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Venture Capital Assistance sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Warehousing Infrastructure Fund (WIF) provides loan at cheaper rate for development of storage facility and other necessary marketing infrastructures. (ii) Government advocates reforms in agricultural marketing sector so that private sector is encouraged to invest in post-harvest infrastructure nearer to farmers field. (iii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have also developed a number of post-harvest equipment and technologies which help in checking post-harvest losses and they also organise relevant trainings. (iv) Government through National Institutes of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and Krishi Vigyan Kendras spread across the country also impart training to stakeholders on skill development and adoption of better post-harvest management practices.
