

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:709

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014

POST HARVEST LOSS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) the quantum and the estimated value of post-harvest loss of fruits and vegetables in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether a substantial quantum of perishable fruits and vegetables can be saved by setting up of post harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action plan of the Government to address the issue including various programmes presently run by the Government for the purpose;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to involve private companies in setting up of cold storages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(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 were in the range of 5.8% to 18% in fruits and 6.8% to 12.5% in vegetables. The estimated value of post harvest losses based on the wholesale price of year 2009 for fruits and vegetables was Rs.13533 crore (Rs.7862 crore in fruits and Rs.5671 crore in vegetables).

(b) to (e): Creation of post harvest infrastructure including cold storages may reduce storage losses substantially by enhancing shelf life and availability of these perishables in lean seasons. Government is implementing various credit linked assistance programmes 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 under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of this Ministry.

Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) is implementing a scheme to provide 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.

Further, Ministry of Commerce through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Expert 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.