

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1539

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

WASTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that wastage of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables has adversely affected the economy;
- (b) if so, the details of wastage of various agricultural produce during each of the last three years and current year State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up and modernize cold chains, processing facilities and to promote ripening chambers to reduce the wastage in the country and if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to allow participation of private sector to overcome the shortage of cold storages; and provide hundred percent assistance to gram panchayats for construction of cold storage on latest technique and for maintenance thereof; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other assistance provided by the Government to various States during the last three years and the current year State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A study published in 2012 by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), estimated that quantum of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables were in the range of 1.1% to 18.05%. The details of harvest and post harvest losses of major agricultural crops and commodities estimated by this study are at Annexure-I. The details of year wise and state wise losses are not available.

(c) to (e): Government is implementing various credit linked assistance 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. Credit linked back ended subsidy at 35% of the project cost in general areas and at 50% in hilly and scheduled areas is available for these activities to individuals, group of farmers/growers/ consumers, partnership/ proprietary firms, self help groups, farmer producer organizations, companies, corporations, cooperatives, local bodies, agricultural produce market committees and State Governments under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme. The assistance under the scheme is linked to adoption of technical standards. The details of assistance provided to various States during the last three years and the current year under the programmes of National Horticulture Mission and National Horticulture Board which have been subsumed under MIDH are at Annexure – II & III respectively.

Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) is implementing schemes to provide integrated cold chain and processing facilities from farm gate to consumers. Further, Ministry of Commerce through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) also provides assistance for cost of cold chain units related to export activity.