

Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain and Value Added Centres, Modernization of Abattoirs, (ii) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation/ of FPI, (iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R&D (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development, (v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and (vi) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of street Food.

There is no separate scheme exclusively for rural areas, however, under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation / Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries financial assistance is provided for setting up of new food processing units as well as technological Upgradation and expansion of existing units in urban as well as rural areas. Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

The guidelines of the Ministry for the Scheme of setting up of food processing industries clearly mentions that the sanctions under the Scheme to Women, SC/ST should be given priority. It has further been decided that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Associations/ Organisations should also be given priority under the Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Setting up new cold storage

†1539. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of cold storages in the country substantial quantity of vegetables and fruits are spoiled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to make arrangement for setting up new cold storages in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be 30-35% amounting to about Rs. 30,000/- crores in the country, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold storages/ cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by promoting the development of food processing industries, strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

(c) and (d) To promote setting up of the cold storages in the country, Government is operating several Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is provided for setting up of cold storages / cold chain facilities. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public / private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processing Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes. Rs. 210 crore has been allocated to MFPI for the purpose of development of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan.

Further, to promote setting up of more cold storages in the country, Government, in the Union Budget 2010-11, has announced to allow external commercial borrowings for cold storage or cold

room facilities including farm level pre-cooling for preservation or storage of agricultural and allied produce, marine products and meat, as a part of the farm to market initiative and to promote private sector investment in setting up of cold storages. In addition, Government has also announced project import status at a concessional customs duty of 5% with full exemption from service tax to the initial setting up and expansion of cold storage, cold room including farm pre-coolers for preservation or storage of agriculture and related sectors produce and full exemption from custom duty to refrigeration units required for the manufacture of refrigerated vans or trucks.

Wastage of agricultural food items

1540. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment is made every year for the loss incurred due to wastage of agricultural food items at various stages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such loss during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of steps the Ministry is taking or proposes to take to reduce the losses; and
- (d) to what extent the Vision 2015 Document helps in addressing the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such annual assessment is made by the Ministry on losses incurred due to wastage of agricultural food items at various stages in the country. However, it has been estimated that the overall annual wastage of agricultural produce in the country has reduced from Rs. 58,000 crores in 2004 to Rs. 30,000 crores in 2010.

(c) In order to achieve the above, the Ministry has been implementing various plan schemes, namely i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure, Modernization of Abattoirs, ii)