

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 75% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in difficult areas including North Eastern states subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore for strengthening and value addition of cold chain infrastructure.

Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes. 'Creation and Management of cold chain infrastructurd' for agriculture has been identified a thrust area by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Statement

*State-wise distribution of cold storages in North Eastern
States as on 31.03.2011*

State	Total No.	Total Capacity in MT
Assam	27	102979
Arunachal Pradesh	1	5000
Manipur	0	0
Meghalaya	3	3200
Mizoram	1	3471
Nagaland	2	6150
Sikkim	1	2000
Tripura	12	33581
TOTAL	47	156381

Source: Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, National Horticulture Mission, and National Horticulture Board.

Cold storage chains and processing units in Assam

3933. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to wastage of fruits and vegetables, yearly losses amount to millions of rupees in Assam;
- (b) the annual loss of vegetables in Assam during last five years, district-wise and value-wise;
- (c) by when the wastage of vegetables would be stopped by establishing cold storage chains and processing units in the State;
- (d) the details of action plan for next five years, District-wise;
- (e) whether vegetable producers often engage in distress sale and traders exploit them and make money;
- (f) whether there is any plan to undo this situation; and
- (g) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per the study conducted by the Central Institute for Post Harvest Engineering & Technology, Ludhiana, (published in 2010), Post Harvest losses of major agricultural produce including fruits & vegetables at national level, which also includes Assam, was estimated to the tune of about Rs. 44,000 crore per annum. The cumulative wastage in fruits & vegetables is estimated 5.8% to 18%.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) does not maintain state/district specific data on annual loss as well as value-wise of vegetables including Assam districts/state.

(c) The fixing of time limit to stop wastage of vegetables may not be a feasible proposal. However, to encourage setting up of cold chain facilities in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan provides financial assistance for development of cold chain infrastructure in the country including Assam. 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, encouraging value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and

processing of horticulture produce including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries, the entrepreneurs/domestic agro-processing industries are assisted to create new processing capacities and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities in sectors like Milk, Fruit & Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, wine, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse. Under the scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas & @33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in North Eastern and difficult areas.

(d) The Working Group constituted on Food Processing Sector for Ministry of Food Processing Industries for 12th Five Year Plan has recommended the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) w.e.f. 2012-13. Government has approved a proposal for State Governments to start preparatory activities for this scheme and has approved release of 51 crores for this purpose.

The salient features of the NMFP are : (i) to realize the Ministry's next leap forward in terms of ensuing requisite growth impetus and value addition to the sector; (ii) decentralized approach; (iii) greater role of State/UTs; (iv) better outreach and (v) effective supervision and monitoring. The NMFP would also provide flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country.

(e) No data is available with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) in this regard.

(f) and (g) To prevent wastage of fruits & vegetables and occurrence of situation of distress sale by vegetable producers, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes during 11th Plan for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries in the country. These

are Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain facilities, Abattoir and Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries. MFPI through its plan schemes provides financial assistance for creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastage, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

Establishment of food parks

3934. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy, proposal and budget outlay for establishment of food parks across the country to attract FDI in the food processing sector; and

(b) if so, the list of cities where these are proposed and the modus operandi of these parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Government had launched a flagship scheme of Mega Food Parks in the 11th Plan to give boost to the food processing sector through creation of state of the art infrastructure and creating favourable environment for investment including attracting FDI by offering various tax incentives. 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route is permitted in infrastructure development including Mega Food Parks. Government has so far approved 30 Mega Food Parks in 3 phases under this Scheme. While 15 Mega Food Parks of 1st and 2nd phases are at different stages of implementation, the proposals received for 15 remaining Food Parks of the 3rd phase are under technical appraisal in the Ministry. The details of locations of 15 ongoing Mega Food Park projects of 1st and 2nd phases are given in Statement (See below). The Mega Food Park Projects function in a Hub and Spoke Model comprising of a Central Processing Centre (CPC) supported by Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and farm proximate facilities such as Collection Centres (CCs). On an average 30-35 Food Processing Units are expected to come up in the CPC which provides for need based core processing facilities (modern storage, processing, packaging, safety standards etc.) and Basic Enabling Infrastructure (such as captive power plant, effluent treatment facilities etc.) for these units.