

**Survey on post-harvest losses**

4666. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a survey on estimation of post harvest losses was conducted in 106 districts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of observations made; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to prevent the post harvest losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. It is fact that a survey on estimation of past Harvest losses was conducted in 106 districts of the country.

(b) A study of the quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of major crops and livestock produce was carried out by ICAR during 2005-07. The survey was undertaken in 106 districts of India with respect to 46 crops and commodities comprising 5 cereals, 4 pulses, 6 oilseeds, 8 fruits, 8 vegetables, 8 plantation crops and spices, 6 livestock produce and jaggery. The data collected by enquiry and by observations in the field were scrutinized and statistically analyzed to arrive at the overall estimates of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses at national level.

The operations considered for assessment of losses were harvesting, collection, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation, and storage depending upon the commodity.

(c) The losses in selected cereals, pulses and oilseeds were found in the ranges of 3.9-6%, 4.3-6.1% and 2.8-10.1%, respectively. The losses in selected fruits and vegetables were observed in the range of 5.8-18%. The average losses in inland and marine fisheries were 6.9% and 2.9% respectively. The losses in milk sector were 0.8% and, meat and poultry sector were 2.3% and 3.7% respectively.

Though it is not possible to exclude the harvesting and threshing, the report contains mainly the estimate of losses at the farm, storage, transport and processing which are major stages of post harvest handling. There are many other post harvest loss components which have not been covered. There is long supply chain from farm gate through small traders, wholesalers and retailers to reach the consumer. At each change of hand, losses might be taking place; however, it was not in the scope of this study to account for them.

(d) Efforts are being made to develop and introduce technologies for reduction of harvest and post harvest losses at critical stages, like harvesting and threshing of food grains, and storage and transportation of fruits and vegetables.

**Per capita availability of foodgrains**

4667.DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether per capita availability of foodgrains is as per the norms;
- (b) if so, what are the norms and the per capita availability of foodgrains during the last five years; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the per capita availability of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The availability of foodgrains in the country is derived from total domestic production and net import.

The per capital net availability of foodgrains since 2007 is given below:

Year	(Grams per day) Per capita net availability of foodgrains
2007	442.8
2008	436.0
2009	444.0
2010	437.1
2011 (p)	462.9

(p) - provisional

(c) The Government, inter alia, implements various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc. under which various incentives are given with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and production. In addition, Government imports various agricultural commodities to augment their domestic availability.