

Setting up of cold storages under Integrated Cold Chain Project

*31. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage units sanctioned under the Integrated Cold Chain Project in the country along with those proposed to be set up in the next two years and in the current year;

(b) whether they would meet the requirements of handling capacity of milk and dairy products, fruits, vegetables, fish, marine products and cereals; and

(c) if not, the shortfall estimated and the manner in which Government plans to meet the deficiency in the handling capacity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for setting up integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities both for horticulture and non-horticulture produce since 2008-09. So far, 138 Integrated Cold Chain Projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry. Of this, 74 Integrated Cold Chain Projects have achieved completion and commenced commercial operation, 61 Integrated Cold Chain Projects are in various stages of implementation and 3 projects have been cancelled/withdrawn by the Ministry due to non-implementation by the promoter. The implementation schedule for the cold chain project is 24 months in general areas and 30 months in difficult areas (North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).

(b) The existing cold storage/cold chain infrastructure is inadequate to meet the requirements of handling of perishable agri-produce in the country.

(c) Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri Committee constituted by the Planning Commission in 2012 had indicated cold storage requirement of 61 million tonnes. The present capacity of cold storage is estimated at around 32 million tonnes in the country. Thus the present gap is around 29 million tonnes.

To meet the deficiency in cold storage/cold chain capacity, Government is providing assistance through the schemes of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure of Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Mission for Integrated

Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare. The proposal(s) under the scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are invited through publication of expression of interest based on number of projects approved by the Government from time to time. However, the proposals under MIDH scheme are accepted round the year. These schemes are demand driven from entrepreneurs, private companies, co-operatives, farmers groups, self-help groups, etc. for which assistance in the form of Grant-in-Aid/subsidy is provided by the Government.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, considering the Minister's reply, it really gives us all the details which are academic. It was the UPA Government, which realized the potential of India to contribute to this fast growing sector of agriculture and horticulture. In 2011, they set up the National Centre for Cold Chain Development. The economy was given a boost by all the new factors zeroed in on the policy, the new Ministry of Food Processing will set up. I am not really asking the Minister in general terms what the things are. I want to know from her as to why there is this 40 per cent wastage because we don't have adequate cold storage facilities. What are the numbers and the capacity of cold storage or cold chain storages in the last three years, especially, in the State of Punjab?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as for the cold chains that are being created by my Ministry, it is written in the answer. If you were to go through it, it would tell you exactly what the cold chain capacity is. But to give you a broader picture, there is no doubt that there are high wastages, especially of perishables, wherein in our country, the horticulture produce has been growing at a much faster pace than the grain produced, almost doubled in the last few years. The only study that was done by the Sumitra Choudhary Committee, as I have said in my answer, showed that there was a shortage of almost 29 million metric tonnes. In 2008, this scheme for Integrated Cold Chain was launched and 138 projects were sanctioned from 2008 up till the time that we took over.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I want to know about the last three years, especially in Punjab.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: In the last three years, like I said, out of 138 Cold Chain Projects which were sanctioned, half of them have been completed and the rest of them are in the process of being completed. As far as the State of Punjab goes, there were 8 cold chains which are ongoing at the moment. There were four completed projects and another four are ongoing in the State of Punjab.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I am compelled to ask the second question, without getting a straight reply to the question. How many cold storages in the last three years have been opened in Punjab, which is, primarily, an agrarian State? I know, the Minister is telling me the number since 2008. We understood the importance of this sector in the UPA Government. I want to know in the last three years what have they done. Well, I did not get an answer.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I think what you are not understanding is that we do not set up cold storages. That is set up by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Food Processing sets up an Integrated Cold Chain, which is from the farm to the fork, which is processing IQF, waxing, grading and sorting the whole chain. Out of those, we have set up eight in total. Four had come up earlier in the last three years and four more are ongoing. As for details about how many cold storages have come up, I do not give grants from my Ministry for any cold storage as a stand-alone project. If you want to know the entire number of cold storages in the country, I could have the data given to you, or I will talk to my colleague in the Ministry of Agriculture and have that data sent to you. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: The Minister of Agriculture, sitting here, should respond. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: The Ministry sets up cold chains, and I have answered *...(Interruptions)...* The main question is on Integrated Cold Chain projects. It is not on cold storages. There is a difference between a storage and a chain. I think the hon. Member has not understood.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I do understand. Our Government understood that and that is why we created this whole policy, and the new setup was put for cold chains and not for cold storages alone. I am asking how much fund has been allocated by your Ministry for cold chains in the last three years. Don't tell me those projects were started in 2008. I am aware of that. Some of them have been completed and some of them have been written-off by you because the pace was slow. How much fund has the NDA Government, which goes on emphasising the importance of infrastructure and 'Make in India', given to Punjab in the last three years to justify the creation of your Ministry?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as you know, our Government has come in just 20 months ago. And, this scheme, as I said, was started in 2008. When we took over in 2014, most of the cold chain projects were all delayed and, practically, one-third had been completed. So, before asking for more funds, I first had to complete what was already ongoing. Now, about the exact funds given to Punjab, in

[Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal]

specific, as I told you, I can tell you about the number of projects but I do not have the exact break-up of funds allocated for the eight projects, I have got the details of what, exactly, is being created out of that. But I can give you the break-up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let that information be given to the hon. Member.

श्री अजय संचेती: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार की ऐसी कोई योजना है या वह इस पर सोचेगी कि देश में जो नक्सलाइट बेल्ट या नेक्सलाइट डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं, अगर वहां कोल्ड चेन लगाई जाती है, तो ऐसे एरियाज़ के लिए सामान्य तौर पर जो रियायतें दी जाती हैं, उसके ऊपर भी कोई और रियायत देने का प्रोविजन किया जा सकता है?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: सर, मंत्रालय के तहत जो कोल्ड चेन का प्रोजेक्ट है, उसके लिए कोई भी अप्लाई कर सकता है, कोई individual, कोई Self-Help Group, कोई फार्मर ग्रुप, कोई organisation, anybody is allowed to apply for it. We give special emphasis to hilly areas and the North-Eastern areas where they get 75 per cent of the project cost up to a maximum limit of ₹ 10 crores, whereas in general areas, it is only up to 50 per cent. There is no other specific thing given for Naxal areas.

श्री बैष्णव परिडा: सर, यह पॉलिसी मैटर है। My supplementary is this. In India, many of the States lack this cold chain facility and they are not able to preserve the foodgrains which they produce, and my State, Odisha, is one of them. Is there any policy with the Central Government to help those States build up this cold storage or cold chain process?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, as I said, when we give cold chain projects, people have to apply. An ad comes out in newspapers, and the Expression of Interest is invited by the people. For people, who apply, there is a marking system, a very transparent marking system, which is there on the website, and on the basis of that, the numbers, which are being allocated, are given to the people who fit the criteria. As far as Odisha is concerned, there are two ongoing projects of cold chain in the State which have been sanctioned by the Ministry and these are going to be ready very shortly.

श्री हुसैन दलवाई : सर, महाराष्ट्र में बहुत दिनों से, बहुत सालों से कोस्टल एरियाज़ में कोल्ड स्टोरेज के बारे में बात हो रही है। जहां कोस्टल एरिया है, वहां बड़े पैमाने पर fishing होती है, लेकिन वहां कोल्ड स्टोरेज नहीं होने की वजह से उनको बड़ी दिक्कत आती है और उनको जो प्राइस मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है। महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने इसके लिए assistance देने के लिए केंद्र सरकार से अनुरोध किया है। क्या सरकार इसके बारे में विचार करेगी?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: सर, जैसे मैंने कहा कि हम लोग कोल्ड चेन लगाते हैं, कोल्ड स्टोरेज नहीं, integrated cold chain, जहां पूरी चेन complete हो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I seek your protection. The Ministry is constantly contradicting her own Ministry. I would like to draw her attention to the question — this is in English — which is very specific. It says, "The number of cold storage units sanctioned under the Integrated Cold Chain project." That is English. For her to say 'that we don't sanction cold storage', misleads the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed with the reply. Renukaji, please sit down.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I think, Madam, you are not understanding yet again what I have said. The Integrated Cold Chain project..
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is you who have not understood. This is what your Ministry has put in writing. You pushed the envelope... ..(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Renukaji, you have made your point. Please sit down.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: May I answer, please? If you see, the question is 'setting up of cold storages under the Integrated Cold Chain project'.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Exactly...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: May I finish? Under the Integrated Cold Chain project, if you were to look at the norms of the Cold Chain project, it is up to the individual to decide which component he wants to take, whether it is a cold storage, whether it is reefer van, whether it is a processing norm.(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... Renukaji, please... ..(Interruptions)...

One minute, please.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir; you have to protect us in this House. She has not understood the question. She cannot give this answer.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Can I finish?(Interruptions).... Can you have the patience to hear me out?(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: She tells...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not your question. Please sit down.(Interruptions)...

SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It doesn't matter. I am a Member of this House. I am entitled to... ..(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Is the Minister entitled to answer?
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute, please. All of you, please sit down. There is a set procedure. ...(Interruptions)... Just a minute, please. If the question is wrong or if the answer is wrong, there is a procedure for correcting it. You can ask for that. If the answer is inadequate, you can point that out.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, the question is not wrong. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, if they will not allow me to complete my answer and keep butting in the middle, then, how can I complete?
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप उनकी बात तो सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You categorically made a statement....
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Precious time is going. Let us hear her answer.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: But, Sir, the answer is wrongly...
(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Ambika Soni, you have had your question and two supplementaries answered. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Will you finish quickly? I want to go on to the next question.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Yes, Sir, if they would allow me, I would like to finish quickly. Sir, I would yet again start off by saying that we do not ask people, 'Do you want to set up a cold storage?' We ask them, 'Would you like to set up an Integrated Cold Chain?' It is entirely up to the entrepreneur what he wants to put up. Now, which of them have put up a cold storage, I can give her this break-up. I can only tell the hon. Member as to how many Integrated Cold Chains have been put up, which is what the topic of this question is.

Now, to come back to what the hon. Member asked about Maharashtra, I would like to highlight to the hon. Member that in Maharashtra, we have got nine on-going Cold Chain projects, out of the total of 27 which were sanctioned to Maharashtra, 18 have been completed and nine are ongoing. So this Ministry has sanctioned quite a huge bulk of the cold chain projects to Maharashtra and like I said, कोई भी अप्लाई कर सकता है। उसमें 50 per cent of the cost तक की ग्रांट की लिमिट होती है और उनको up to 10 crores दिया जाता है। महाराष्ट्र में टोटल 27 प्रोजेक्ट्स सेंक्शन हुए हैं, जिनमें से 18 कम्प्लीट हो गए हैं और 9 ऑनगोइंग हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Chair is compelled to point out that the wording of Part (a) of the question says, 'the number of cold storage units...' So, the answer to that has to be specific. Was there a number of units, x, y, z. That is all. Maybe, that can be corrected later. Let me go on to the next question. Question No. 32.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the answer is given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about units.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Yes, Sir. But my answer says that it is implementing a Central sector scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure. That is what we put up for setting up an Integrated Cold Chain. We do not give a grant for just setting up a cold storage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not units, but projects.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Units may or may not be a part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let this be examined. Let us go to Question No. 32.

People fallen out of PDS ambit

*32. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people have fallen out of the ambit of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of West Bengal has begun the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 in all of its districts *w.e.f* February 2016. Under the NFSA, 2013, the State is entitled to cover 74.47% of its rural population and 47.55% urban population, based on the Census of 2011, which works out to 601.84 lakh beneficiaries in the State. The task of identification is in the domain of the State Government. The Government of West Bengal has identified 545.62 lakh beneficiaries so far, to be covered under the Act. Based on the provisions of the NFSA, wherein subsidized foodgrains @ ₹ 2/kg. for wheat and ₹ 3/kg for rice, the Government of India has allocated a quantity of 3.01 lakh tons of foodgrains