

(2015) on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India” prepared by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the harvest and post-harvest losses for agriculture commodities range from 4.65-5.99% for cereals, 6.36-8.41% for pulses, 3.08-9.96% for oilseeds, 6.7-15.88% for fruits and 4.58-12.44% for vegetables. The total estimated economic value of quantitative loss was found to the tune of ₹ 92651 crore at average annual prices of 2014. There is no Authentic data available on Global ranking of India as one of the top countries in terms of post-harvest losses of agricultural commodities.

(b) The Government has taken number of measures to develop the post-harvest and marketing infrastructure for cleaning, grading storage, cold chain logistics, etc. with the objectives of reducing the post-harvest losses. Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 promoted by Government of India for adoption by the States also aims at promoting investment in post-harvest infrastructure and encouraging integration of farmers directly with end buyers which will help in reducing number of inter mediations and thereby reducing post-harvest losses. Various Schemes of the Government such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), sub-schemes of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) under Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) as well as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) aims at promoting post-harvest and marketing infrastructure in the country.

Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India is carrying out Research and Development activities towards development of machines, tools and technologies for scientific storage, post-harvest processing and development of value chain for agricultural commodities to minimize the losses. In addition to above, programmes/ activities relating to capacity building in value chain and development in post-harvest engineering and technology by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Jaipur aims at reducing the post-harvest losses.

Suicide by farmers

4. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any comprehensive policy to address the issue of increasing number of farmers suicide in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, in what manner Government proposes, to deal with the larger issue of farmers woes, crop loss and increasing debt burden;

(c) whether State Governments, which have announced loan waivers on repayments have demanded grants/funds from the Centre, if so, the response of Central Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to ensure higher penetration of financial institutions in rural areas and insurance coverage for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Agrarian distress as manifest from large number of farmers living below the poverty (BPL) line and unfortunate incidents of suicides can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. With this understanding, the Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine various dimensions of farmers' income and to recommend an appropriate strategy. In the meanwhile, the Government is realigning its interventions to move from production-centric to farmers' income-centric platform. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 Lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the Interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

In order to make crop insurance simpler, understandable and affordable for the farmers and to provide them with better insurance services, the Government has approved a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for comprehensive risks associated with the entire crop cycle including sowing to post-harvest risks in specified instances.

This Department has prepared a comprehensive media plan for publicity and awareness for crop insurance schemes amongst stakeholders including farmers and is regularly monitoring the implementation of schemes with State Governments, Insurance Companies and Banks to provide time bound benefit to the farmers.

Funds for deep sea fishing vessels

5. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is re-considering the project submitted by Government of Kerala requesting funds to build vessels for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been earmarked to meet the project submitted by the State; and

(c) whether any funds/permission to build such vessels have been sanctioned to other States under similar project during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Government of Kerala had submitted its project proposal to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for deep sea fishing in January, 2017. Subsequently, in March, 2017, this Department has introduced a sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' under the 'Blue Revolution Scheme' and requested the Government of Kerala to re-submit its' revised project proposal in accordance with the Guidelines of the said sub-component.

(b) Allocation of requisite funds may be considered upon submission of revised proposal by the State Government.

(c) As the sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' has been introduced in current financial year 2017-18, so far the assistance of ₹ 200 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for deep-sea fishing during current financial year.

Separate fund for welfare of fishermen

6. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fishermen in the coastal areas of the country, as on date, State-wise;