

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 351
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

LACK OF COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

351. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether requirement of cold storages in the country is 35 million MT, while capacity of projects approved by Government is around 32 million MT according to a study conducted by NABCONS;
- (b) if so, interim measures taken by Government to ensure that agricultural produce is not wasted till the time the approved projects are completed and storage capacity is increased to desired levels; and
- (c) whether Government has made any assessment of loss of fruits, vegetables, grains and cash crop due to non-availability of cold storage facilities for the last three years, if so, details thereof and reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Government is implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is available for various horticulture activities including setting up of cold storage in rural areas to enable farmers to get remunerative prices and to protect them from selling their produce at a lesser price in the country.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which financial assistance is provided for various horticulture activities including setting up of cold storages. The component is demand/entrepreneur driven for which Government assistance in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy is available at the rate of 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% of the project cost in hilly and scheduled areas.

Besides, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme namely “Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion /Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products”. Under the scheme, credit linked back-ended subsidy at the rate of 35% of the capital cost of the project in general areas and 50% in case of North East, hilly & scheduled areas for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storage and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage of capacity above 5000 MT and up to 10000 MT is available. In case of North East region, the units with capacity above 1000 MT are also eligible for assistance.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) is implementing a Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure as one of the component of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid at the rate of 35% for general areas and 50% for North East and Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and at the rate of 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 crore per project for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility. Standalone cold storages are not covered under the Scheme.

Further, to strengthen agriculture infrastructure in the country, Government has launched Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) of Rs. 1.00 lakh crore. Under AIF, there is provision for collateral free term loan upto Rs. 2.00 crore and interest subvention of 3% on the term loan availed for creation of post harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages.

(c) The assessment of loss of fruits, vegetable, grains and cash crops due to non-availability of cold storage facilities for the last three years are not available with the Government.

However, a study commissioned by Ministry of Food Processing Industries and carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), published in 2015. As per this report due to dropping, rotting, transport, injuries during crushing, sorting, grading, pressing in packaging and damage during plucking, the quantum of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses in selected crops were observed to be in the range of 4.65% to 5.99% (cereals), 6.36% to 8.41% (pulses), 3.08% to 9.96% (oil seeds), 6.70% to 15.88% (fruits), 4.58% to 12.44% (vegetables), 5.23% to 10.52% (fish), 2.71% (meat) and 0.92% (milk).
