

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-333

ANSWERED ON- 09/12/2022

DISTRESS SALE OF CROPS BY FARMERS

333. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether food losses are attributed to bumper crop damages during storage/transport and consumer food wastage, as per several studies, including one by Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (ICAR-CIPHET);
- (b) if so, steps Government is taking to mitigate these losses, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering updating logistics and storage systems using scientific methods to reduce food loss;
- (d) if so, details thereof, if not reasons therefor; and
- (e) steps Government intends to take to assure and secure markets and prices so that farmers are not forced to dispose bumper crop out of distress?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per ICAR study of 2013-14 the harvest and post-harvest losses of major cereals ranged from 4.65 - 5.99%, pulses ranged from 6.36 - 8.41%, oilseeds ranged from 3.24 - 9.96%, fruits ranged from 6.70 % to 15.88% and for vegetables, the losses ranged from 4.58% to 12.44%.

(b) to (d): The Government has taken following steps to mitigate food losses at various stages:

- i. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 with the aim to augment preservation and processing capacity in the country so as to reduce post-harvest losses and create off farm employment. PMKSY has following components viz. (1) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (2) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, (3) Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities, (4) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, (5) Human Resources and Institutions— Research & Development and (6) Operation Greens.

- ii. Food Corporation of India (FCI) implements following schemes for modernization or upgradation of storage systems for food grains
 - (1) Construction of Silos under Public Private Partnership mode;
 - (2) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme.

FCI aims at positioning bulk logistic operations through specialized wagons/containers between silos, which can reduce losses of food grains during transportation in comparison to conventional rake movement by avoiding multiple handling in bagged consignments.

- iii. ICAR through its research activities develops post-harvest machinery, storage structures and protocols, high value/value added products and conducting trainings to farmers and other stakeholders for reducing post-harvest losses of crops and commodities.

(e): There exists a transparent and uniform policy for procurement by the Government agencies across the country. As per the Government of India policy, the offered quantity within the stipulated procurement period and conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government agencies. However, if any producer/ farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, farmer/producer is free to sell his/her produce in open market.

- i. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Marketing Research and Information Network sub scheme of Integrated System for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) since 2000 to link important Agricultural Produce Markets spread all over the country and the State Agriculture Marketing Boards and Directorates spread over the country and collect, collate and disseminate the mandi prices and arrival data.
- ii. Through e-procurement module deployed by procuring agencies, farmers get latest/updated information regarding MSP declared, nearest purchase center, date of procurement etc. This reduces the waiting period for delivery of stock by the farmers and enables the farmer to deliver stock as per his/her convenience in the nearest mandi.
- iii. Various procurement portals developed by procuring agencies have now been unified into Central Food grain Procurement Portal (CFPP) to share identified MTP (Minimum Threshold Parameters) towards development of an application eco-system, wherein requisite information in respect of procurement is available at single source for monitoring and strategic decision making and to ensure uniformity and transparency.
- iv. The online procurement system has largely eliminated the procurement from middlemen and has resulted in better targeting of the MSP to farmers.
