

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2145
ANSWERED ON 09TH AUGUST, 2024

POST HARVEST FOOD LOSS DUE TO RISING TEMPERATURE

2145. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of *FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES* be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the rising temperature in the country has caused post-harvest food loss;
- (b) if so, the estimated quantum of food loss in 2021-22, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to modernise the supply chains of perishables to prevent food loss; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI RAVNEET SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has not conducted any specific study to assess the impact of high temperature on post-harvest losses of agricultural produce in India. High temperature conditions generally lead to quality deterioration of fruits and vegetables. The Ministry had commissioned a study through NABARD Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. (NABCONS), namely, “Study to determine Post harvest losses of Agri Produce in India” in 2022 with reference year 2020-22. The details of estimated loss of various commodities reported in the study are as under:

Post Harvest Losses

Crops/Commodities	Estimated Loss (%)
Cereals	3.89-5.92
Pulses	5.65-6.74
Oil Seeds	2.87-7.51
Fruits	6.02-15.05
Vegetables	4.87-11.61
Plantation Crops & Spices	1.29-7.33
Milk	0.87

Fisheries (Inland)	4.86
Fisheries (Marine)	8.76
Meat	2.34
Poultry	5.63
Egg	6.03

Source: Study to determine Post harvest losses of Agri Produces in India,2022

(c) & (d) Ministry of Food Processing and Industries (MoFPI) implements Central Sector Umbrella Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 to create post-harvest infrastructure and processing facilities to boost the overall development of the food processing sector including reduction in post-harvest losses, enhancing value addition etc. The component schemes under PMKSY are (i) Mega Food Parks (the component has been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2021 with provision for committed liabilities only) (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages (The component has been discontinued from 1st April 2021) (v) Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities and (vi) Operation Greens. MoFPI provides credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy) in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing/preservation infrastructure which, inter alia, includes cold storages to minimize post-harvest losses. As on 30th June, 2024, 1680 projects have been approved under PMKSY.

Apart from MoFPI, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has also launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme in July 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package in order to improve post-harvest infrastructure and create community farming assets. The AIF Scheme facilitates sanction of medium to long term loans by Banks and other lending institutions for the setting up of cold storage facilities, warehouses and processing units, aimed at reducing crop wastage and enhancing value addition.
