

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 486
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

NEW POLICIES FOR SUPPORTING ONION FARMERS

486. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced any new policies specifically aimed at supporting onion farmers;
- (b) if so, the details of these policies and their implementation status;
- (c) the financial assistance provided to onion farmers under these new policies;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure fair and remunerative prices for onions; and
- (e) the measures adopted to improve the storage, processing, and marketing infrastructure for onions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): Government of India is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) for holistic development of horticulture crops including onion. Under MIDH Scheme, assistance is provided for low cost onion storage structures for which 50% subsidy is available. The details of funds allocated and utilized by States for creation of low-cost onion storage structures from 2019-20 to 2023-24 under MIDH scheme are given in **Annexure-I**. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH scheme. Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing operation green scheme for TOP (Tomato, Onion and Potato) crops, which includes assistance for transportation and hiring of storage facilities to the eligible farmers/ entities. The details of crop wise subsidy including onion are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d): Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) under the scheme of Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is procuring onion from farmers to create buffer stock through National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF). Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under MoA&FW is also being implemented for perishable horticultural crops including onion to protect the farmers from distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

(e): Different Departments/ Ministries are implementing different programmes to improve the storage, processing and marketing infrastructure for onions. Assistance is provided for low cost onion storage structure, for transportation and hiring of storage facilities under MIDH and Operation Green schemes. However, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Pune has developed naturally ventilated storage structures and controlled atmosphere onion storage structures for minimizing storage losses of onion. For promotion of processing, ICAR-DOGR has also developed various technologies like dehydrated onion products.

Funds allocated and utilized under MIDH scheme to States for creation of low cost onion storage structures

Rs. in Lakh

Year	Funds allocated	Funds Utilized
2019-20	7669	4475
2020-21	8699	5475
2021-22	8637	3852
2022-23	8217	5090
2023-24	10641	6568
Total	43863	25461

Status of subsidy released [in ₹ crore]

FY	Kisan Rail	Subsidy (Short Term)	Total
2020-21	23.33	1.59	24.92
2021-22	54.46	3.74	58.21
2022-23	0	29.99	29.99
2023-24	0	80.07	80.07
2024-25	0	3.65	3.65
Total	77.79	119.04	196.84

Total quantity transported/ stored [in MT]

FY	Transported	Stored	Total
2020-21	175653	1335	176988
2021-22	580835	9534	590369
2022-23	93344	197989	291333
2023-24	70782	696275	767057
2024-25	1846	40067	41913
Total	922460	945200	1867660

Crop –wise details

Transport Subsidy Details		
Crop	Qty in MT	Subsidy (in ₹)
Onion	1,69,831.12	26,82,19,416.44
Potato	27,760.65	3,01,20,432.00
Pineapple	1.14	22,309.00
Banana	545.90	6,47,968.26
Carrot	75.51	97312.86
Kisan rail	724245.3	777938198
Sub-Total	9,22,459.62	1,07,70,45,636.56
Storage Subsidy Details		
Crop	Qty in MT	Subsidy (in ₹)
Onion	1,388.97	28,58,048.00
Potato	9,41,881.07	88,64,97,740.00
Carrot	1,930.00	19,22,923.00
Sub-Total	9,45,200.04	89,12,78,711
Grand-Total	18,67,659.66	1,96,83,24,348
