

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 145
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

ASSISTANCE FOR SETTING UP OF COLD STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

*145. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to bring about more awareness for promoting cold storage infrastructure in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantum of assistance extended to the entrepreneurs, attracting more entrepreneurs in this field;
- (c) whether Government will pay special attention to this area as popularising the technology among the youth, would not only bring down the commodity value uniformly throughout the year but also bring manifold employment opportunities to the youth; and
- (d) whether Government provides support by extending loans to the entrepreneurs more freely and also interest free loans for setting up cold storage infrastructure?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 FOR 01/08/2025 REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR SETTING UP OF COLD STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) & (b): To create awareness on the various scheme for subsidy for storage including cold storage among the farming community, the Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension scheme is being implemented through Doordarshan, DD Kisan, and All India Radio to telecast and broadcast sponsored agriculture and allied sector programs. Under the scheme, a Krishi Darshan program of 30 minutes is telecast three days a week through 18 regional Doordarshan Kendras. Additionally, three programs, namely Krishi Darshan, Hello Kisan, and Choupal Charcha, are aired three days a week on DD Kisan. On AIR, two programs are broadcast: i) Kisanvani program three days a week through 96 Rural AIR FM Radio Stations, and ii) Kisan Ki Baat three days a week through the AIR FM Gold Channel in Delhi (NCR).

In addition to the above, a Focused Publicity & Awareness Campaign through audio-video spots is also being broadcast/telecast through Doordarshan, AIR and private TV and radio channels operating at the national and regional levels for the benefit of the farming community. Furthermore, publicity and awareness campaigns are conducted through outdoor advertising as well as print advertisement in leading newspapers across the country. In light of the growing spread of mobile and internet usage in rural areas, social media platforms such as Facebook, X, Instagram, Threads, YouTube, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and Public App are also being utilized for publicity and awareness.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture in the country to reducing the post-harvest losses through increasing cold storage infrastructure. Under MIDH scheme financial assistance is provided for various horticulture activities including Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of cold storages of capacity up to 5000 MT in the country on the basis of Annual Action Plan (AAP) received from States/UTs. The component of Cold Storage 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 case of NE & Himalayan State, Scheduled areas, vibrant villages, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands through respective State Horticulture Missions. Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), awareness is generated through capacity-building programmes, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, and exposure visits aimed at farmers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders.

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 20000 MT is available.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements a Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain, Food Processing and Preservation Infrastructure as one of the components of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) 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, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (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. 10.00 crore per project for setting up of integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility. Standalone cold storages are not covered under the Scheme.

(c): The Government recognizes the potential of cold storage infrastructure in reducing post-harvest losses, ensuring better price realization for farmers, stabilizing commodity prices throughout the year, and generating significant employment opportunities. Accordingly, schemes under MIDH and other initiatives aim to promote technology adoption and entrepreneurship, particularly among youth, in the post-harvest management and cold chain sector.

(d): To facilitates institutional credit and 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. These initiatives significantly reduce the cost of credit and make it more accessible for entrepreneurs investing in cold storage facilities.
