

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1510
ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2026

**LACK OF COLD STORAGE AND COLD CHAIN NETWORK IN
CHHATTISGARH**

1510. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that tomatoes and other horticultural crops get spoiled on a large scale due to the lack of the cold storage and cold chain network in Chhattisgarh
- (b) if so, the plans of Government to prevent it; and
- (c) the current status of the approved Mega Food Parks and Agro-Processing Clusters in Chhattisgarh and the timeline by which these are expected to become fully operational?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN)**

(a): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) periodically estimates post-harvest losses for various agricultural produce in the country by commissioning studies based on primary surveys. These studies estimate the post-harvest losses for certain crops. Two studies were commissioned by the Ministry through (i) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), 2015 with reference year 2012-14 and (ii) NABARD Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. (NABCONS), 2022 with reference year 2020-22.

As per the latest study conducted by NABCONS, four crops were covered in the State of Chhattisgarh. The estimated percentages of post-harvest losses for the selected crops are given below:

Chhattisgarh	
Crops	Overall Total Loss (%)
Bottle Gourd	6.77
Guava	13.79
Paddy	3.92
Radish	6.66

No separate study has been conducted on the spoilage of tomatoes and other horticultural crops in Chhattisgarh resulting from inadequate cold storage and cold chain infrastructure. The Ministry does not provide Grant-in-Aid for the establishment of standalone cold storage facilities. Instead, it extends financial assistance only for the setting up of cold storage facilities intended for captive use as per the processing capacity of the approved food processing unit.

(b): To address these issues, MoFPI is implementing Central Sector Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) Scheme, Central Sector Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Centrally Sponsored PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. These schemes are not region-specific but demand-driven and implemented across the country. Under these schemes, the MoFPI provides financial assistance for creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm-gate to retail outlet across the country, including the State of Chhattisgarh. The infrastructure created and assistance provided aim at providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage and increasing the processing level.

Further, under the Operation Greens component of PMKSY, assistance is provided for strengthening production clusters and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), promoting agri-logistics, processing facilities and management for integrated value chain development. The scheme aims to enhance farmers' value realization, reduce post-harvest losses through creation of farm-gate and post-harvest infrastructure, and promote food processing and value addition. Initially launched for Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops in November 2018, the scope of the scheme was expanded from 2021-22 onwards to cover 22 perishable horticultural crops.

With a view to creating post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure, as on 30.06.2026, 12 projects have been sanctioned in Chhattisgarh under the various component schemes of PMKSY, of which six have been completed/operationalised and the remaining six are at various stages of implementation. Once completed, the 12 approved projects are expected to create a preservation and processing capacity of about 4.79 lakh metric tonnes per annum and 11 cold storage facilities for captive use.

(c): As on 30.06.2026, one Mega Food Park and one Agro Processing Cluster have been approved under PMKSY in the State of Chhattisgarh. The present status of these projects is given below:

Sl. No.	Component Scheme	Number of Projects Approved	Date of Approval	Project Cost (Rs. in crore)	Grant-in-Aid Approved (Rs. in crore)	Grant-in-Aid Released (Rs. in crore)	Status
1	Mega Food Parks	1	04.06.2014	96.58	43.96	39.57	Operational
2	Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters	1	28.02.2024	68.87	10.00	Nil	Under implementation

The projects sanctioned under the component schemes of PMKSY generally have a gestation period of two years from the date of approval, subject to fulfilment of conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines. However, the actual timeframe for completion depends on factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances, etc.
