

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3353
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2023

STORAGE SYSTEMS TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS

3353. **SHRI HIBI EDEN:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

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

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (ICAR-CIPHET) conducted the study in 2015. However, as per the latest study conducted by NABARD Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. (NABCONS), funded by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), the post-harvest losses of: cereals ranged from 3.89% - 5.92%, pulses ranged from 5.65% - 6.74%, oilseeds ranged from 2.87% - 7.51%, fruits ranged from 6.02 % to 15.05%; and for vegetables the losses ranged from 4.87% - 11.61%. The major causes include biotic factors like insects, rodents, pests etc., mechanical damage during transport, handling and storage as well as spoilage and quality deterioration due to abiotic factors like humidity, temperature, moisture etc.

Steps taken by the Government to mitigate these losses include:

- i. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements a Central Sector umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 for overall growth and development of the sector with the aim to augment preservation and processing capacity so as to reduce post-harvest losses, create employment, and enhancing value addition & increase exports of processed foods.

- ii. Food Corporation of India (FCI) implements the following schemes for modernization or upgradation of storage systems for food grains: 1) Construction of Silos under PPP mode 2) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme 3) 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. Various steps have been taken for updating logistics and storage systems using scientific methods at Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). The Warehouse Management System software for online transactions is implemented to monitor the logistics and storage system on a pan India basis.
- iv. ICAR-CIPHET recommended norms for reducing storage losses in FCI and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and efficient warehouse management. ICAR through its research activities develops post-harvest machinery, storage structures and protocols, high value/value added products and conducts trainings for farmers and other stakeholders for reducing post-harvest losses of crops and commodities.

(d): The following measures are in place so that farmers are not forced to dispose of the bumper crop out of distress:

- (i) Under the Operation Greens scheme of PMKSY, there is provision for short term support of 50% subsidy on cost of transportation and storage for fruits & vegetables for evacuation of surplus production from production centres during the glut situation. This helps farmers/growers of eligible crops from making distress sale.
- (ii) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implements the Marketing Research and Information Network, sub scheme of Integrated Scheme 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 & arrival data.
- (iii) In order to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers, the DA&FW implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and Price Support Scheme (PSS). PSS is implemented for procurement of oilseeds, pulses & copra at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and MIS for procurement of perishable agricultural and horticultural crops.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - Six year PMFBY was launched in 2016 addressing problems of high premium rates for farmers and reduction in sum insured due to capping. In past 6 Years of implementation - 38 crore farmer applications has been enrolled and over 12.37 crore (Provisional) farmer applicants have received claims. During this period nearly Rs. 25,252 crore were paid by farmers as their share of premium against which claims of over Rs. 1,30,015 crore (Provisional) have been paid to them. Thus for every 100 rupees of premium paid by farmers, they have received about Rs. 514 as claims.

(v) Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at one-and-a half times the cost of production-

- 1) Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of at least 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from 2018-19.
- 2) MSP for Paddy (common) has increased to Rs. 2040 per quintal in 2022- 23 from Rs. 1310 per quintal in 2013-14.
- 3) MSP for Wheat increased from Rs. 1400 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs. 2125 per quintal in 2022-23.

(vi) Through e-procurement module deployed by procuring agencies, farmers get latest/ updated information regarding minimum support price 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.

(vii) Various procurement portals developed by procuring agencies have now been unified into Central Food Grain Procurement Portal (CFPP) to share identified Minimum Threshold Parameters towards development of an application ecosystem, wherein requisite information in respect of procurement is available at single source for monitoring and strategic decision making and to ensure uniformity and transparency.
