

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *387
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2025

FOOD WASTAGE AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES

***387. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:
SHRI CHHOTELAL**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that food wastage and post-harvest losses have increased to a significant percentage of total agricultural produce every year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the initiatives proposed by the Government to reduce food wastage and improve food processing infrastructure in the country; and
- (c) whether the Government realizes that a robust food processing sector is essential for enhancing farmers' income and promoting exports and if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *387 FOR ANSWER ON 27th MARCH, 2025 REGARDING “FOOD WASTAGE AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES”

(a): As per studies conducted by Indian Council for Agricultural Research – Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (ICAR-CIPHET), 2015 and NABARD Consultancy Service Pvt. Ltd (NABCONS), 2022, the estimated percentage of Harvest and Post-Harvest loss of various agricultural produce in India is as follows:

Crops/ Commodities	Estimated Percentage Loss	
	As per ICAR-CIPHET Study (2015)	As per NABCONS study (2022)
Cereals	4.65 - 5.99	3.89-5.92
Pulses	6.36 - 8.41	5.65-6.74
Oil Seeds	3.08 - 9.96	2.87-7.51
Fruits	6.70-15.88	6.02-15.05
Vegetables	4.58-12.44	4.87-11.61
Plantation Crops & Spices	1.18-7.89	1.29-7.33
Milk	0.92	0.87
Fisheries (Inland)	5.23	4.86
Fisheries (Marine)	10.52	8.76
Meat	2.71	2.34
Poultry	6.74	5.63
Egg	7.19	6.03

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) supports the creation and expansion of the processing/preservation capacity through implementation of various schemes for the overall development of food processing sector, including creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, to reduce post-harvest losses and create higher value-addition, providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods. The schemes under MoFPI are as follows:

- i. Central Sector umbrella scheme- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)
- ii. Centrally sponsored "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme"
- iii. Central Sector Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI)

Food irradiation facilitates in reduction of post-harvest losses and wastage of perishable farm produce by enhancing shelf life. Food irradiation units are assisted under the Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure scheme, one of the component scheme of PMKSY. MoFPI

has approved 16 numbers of project proposals for setting up of multi-product food irradiation units across the Country till date. The total amount of Grants-in-aid of ₹ 112.99 Crore has been approved of which, ₹ 68.38 Crore has been released.

Further, The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formed the Indian Food Sharing Alliance (IFSA) with an aim to address India's food waste and hunger crisis by integrating various partner organizations, food recovery agencies and NGOs. IFSA aims to recover the surplus food generated, reduce the amount of food waste generated and increase the amount of safe and nutritious food donated to those in need. FSSAI has framed regulations "Food Safety and Standards (Recovery and Distribution of Surplus Food) Regulation, 2019" to promulgate food donation drive and prevent food loss and waste in India.
