

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2025
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2025

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS AND VEGETABLES DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES

+2025. SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the quality of the loss of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables due to natural calamities in the country during the year 2022-24;
- (b) the corrective steps taken by the Government to deal with the adverse impact of the same on the economy due to this loss;
- (c) whether the Government have made any change in the norms for the assistance related to damage to crops due to natural calamities like flood, drought, hailstorm etc. during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the compensation provided for crop loss due to natural calamities, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) : No data is available about quality of losses of food grains and vegetables due to natural calamities. Steps taken by the Government to prevent post-harvest losses in horticulture crops/other crops due to natural calamities and to assist farmers in the event of loss are at Annexure - I.

(c) to (e) : The items and norms of assistance are reviewed and revised after the award of successive Finance Commission. Taking into account various factors including the price rise, the Government had revised list of items & norms of assistance from SDRF and NDRF for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26 on 10th October 2022, which was further, modified on 11th July 2023. These norms are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website: www.ndmindia.mha.gov.in.

Annexure –I

For reducing the post-harvest losses in horticulture crops, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which assistance is provided for Post-Harvest Management (PHM). Post-harvest management infrastructures including establishment of cold storages (up to 5000 MT), primary/mobile processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere, reefer vans, and setting up of ripening chambers. These components are demand & entrepreneur driven for which credit linked back ended subsidy is available through respective State Horticulture Missions. Under PHM component, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% in general areas and 50% hilly and tribal areas is available for creation of various types of post-harvest infrastructure.

The 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 10000 MT is available. In case of North East region, the units with capacity above 1000 MT are also eligible for assistance.

The Government implements yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to the insured farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize the income of farmers etc. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under the scheme from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses and actuarial/bidder premium is charged by the insurance companies but farmer has to pay lower premium of maximum 2% of sum insured for Kharif season and 1.5% of sum insured for Rabi season for food and oilseed crops and 5% of sum insured for commercial/horticultural crops. The remaining of actuarial/bidder premium is shared equally by the Central and State Governments except North Eastern States, where it is shared in the ratio of 90 : 10 between Centre and State and provided to the insurance companies directly by the Government through fund routing agency i.e. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd.

All the admissible claims/losses are worked out and paid as per the provisions of the operational guidelines of this scheme. However, losses due to localized risks of hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloud burst & natural fire and post-harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rains and hailstorm for a specified period of 15 days after harvest are calculated on individual insured farm basis on inspection by a Committee constituted by the concerned State Government comprising State officials and officials

from insurance companies and loss assessors. Also, there is a provision to pay claims towards prevented sowing/failed germination and adhoc claims in case of mid season adversity.

Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)” sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) is implemented across the country for creation of agricultural marketing infrastructure including Scientific Storage, to reduce post-harvest & handling losses of foodgrains, promote pledge financing and market access in the country, For fruits and vegetables, there is a provision for stand-alone standardised cold storage units as per standards promoted by NCCD up to 1000 as per the MIDH cost norms.

AMI is a capital investment, open-ended, demand driven, credit linked, subsidy scheme, wherein back ended subsidy @ 25% and 33.33% is available based on the eligible category of beneficiary. Assistance is available to Individuals, Farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Agri-pruners, Registered Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, and State agencies etc.

The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. The Central Government provides requisite logistics and financial support to the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the event of 12 notified natural disasters, which includes drought and flood, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance with approved items and norms of Government of India. However, in the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team. The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation.

The Government is taking several steps to promote climate resilient agriculture practices in the country. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Mission aims to implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. Several schemes have also been initiated under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to deal with the adverse climate situations in the agriculture sector. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme increases water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme is implemented as a component of NMSA and focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. The Soil Health & Fertility scheme assists states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Agroforestry & National Bamboo Mission also promote climate resilience in agriculture.
