

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1475
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH JULY, 2025

COLD STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT HORTICULTURE FARMERS

1475. SHRI KUNDURU RAGHUVeer:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the urgent need for cold storage facilities in Nalgonda district, Telangana, where over 42,000 acres of sweet orange and 11,000 acres of chilli are cultivated annually, producing more than 2.4 lakh metric tonnes of perishable output;
- (b) whether the absence of cold storage infrastructure is leading to significant post-harvest losses, poor shelf-life and reduced market value for farmers and if so, the Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to sanction cold storage units under MIDH or other schemes to support horticulture farmers in Nalgonda; and
- (d) whether any steps will be taken to prioritize high-volume districts like Nalgonda for integrated post-harvest infrastructure including storage, processing and transport to strengthen the local horticulture economy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): As per information furnished by Government of Telangana, a total of 08 cold storages with capacity of 40900 MTs are available for storage of horticulture produce in Nalgonda. Further, another 44 cold storages with capacity of 168014 MTs and 42 cold storages with capacity of 170376 MTs are also available in Rangareddy & Khammam Districts respectively which are adjacent to erstwhile Nalgonda District and providing services to the Horticulture farmers of Nalgonda.

(c) & (d): Government is implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is available for setting up of post-harvest management infrastructure for perishable horticultural produce throughout the country.

Department of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of Horticulture in the country to reduce the wastage, strengthen the local horticulture economy and increasing PHM infrastructure in the country including Telangana. Under MIDH, assistance is available for

development of Post Harvest Management (PHM) for perishable horticulture crops including potato which includes establishment of pack house, Integrated pack house, pre-cooling, staging cold room, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer transport, primary/mobile and secondary processing units, setting up of ripening chambers and Integrated cold chain supply system etc.

Under the scheme, assistance is available for individuals, Groups of farmers/ growers/ consumers, Partnership/ Proprietary firms, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs), Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Cooperative Marketing Federations, Local bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) & Marketing Boards and State Governments and can be available through respective State Horticulture Mission.

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.

All the above schemes are demand/entrepreneur driven through commercial ventures for which government assistance is in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy/grant-in-aid and is provided based on the proposals received from the States/entrepreneur.

Further, to 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.
