

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.416
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH JULY, 2016

SHORTAGE OF STORAGE FACILITY

416. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

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

- (a) whether onion and potato farmers across the country are distressed due to fall in prices, lack of storage facilities and lack of food processing units;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to build godowns to enhance the capacity for storing onion and potato in various States of the country including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether farmers are compelled to sell off onion at the rate of Re. 1 per kilogram owing to shortage of storage facility and several farmers did not even harvest onion from their fields;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase storage capacity for onion and potato in various States of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): Wholesale and retail prices of Onion this year are generally lower than that of the last year in almost all major markets including Maharashtra. On the other hand, potato farmers are getting higher prices this year for their produce.

The total cold storage capacity in the country is around 34 million MT, out of which about 75% is used for storage of potato. Onion usually stored in farm proximate well ventilated conventional storages. Financial assistance for setting up food processing units are provided by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI). MIDH also provides assistance for establishment of processing units under the sub component of Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH).

(b): Government, through various schemes/mission, is providing financial assistance for creation of additional cold storage/cold chain capacities in the country including Maharashtra. As on 31.03.2016, about 34 million MT capacity of Cold storage/cold chain infrastructure have been assisted/ created in various parts of the country. State wise cold storage capacity created is annexed.

(c) & (d): Average modal price of onion in Maharashtra has been above Rs. 670/ Qtl and All India average has been above Rs. 1130/Qtl since January 2016 (Source: AGMARKNET).

DAC & FW implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable commodities to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. Under the scheme, in accordance with MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at the fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by the agencies designated by the state government for a fixed period or till the prices are stabilized above the Market Intervention Price (MIP) whichever is earlier. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned state only.

Recently, DAC & FW forwarded the request to various onion producing States including Maharashtra to send the proposal for procurement of onion under MIS. However, no proposal has been received from these State Governments so far.

(e): The Government is implementing the following schemes/missions for increasing storage capacity of perishables including onion and potato in the country.

- (i) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of DAC&FW
- (ii) Integrated cold chain Scheme of MOFPI
- (iii) Scheme of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under ministry of Commerce
- (iv) Scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under DAC &FW
- (v) Grameen Bhandaran Yojana of DAC&FW

Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of grants in aid are provided to farmers/entrepreneurs for setting up cold storages/cold chain infrastructure. Under MIDH financial assistance for low cost onion storage structure is also provided.

Annexure

State wise Cold Storage capacity as on 31.03.2016

S. No.	Name of the State	No.	Capacity (MT)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	2	210
2	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	426	1729286
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5000
4	Assam	35	152706
5	Bihar	305	1416095
6	Chandigarh (UT)	7	12462
7	Chhattisgarh	98	484557
8	Delhi	97	129857
9	Goa	29	7705
10	Gujarat	692	2570973
11	Haryana	318	695795
12	Himachal Pradesh	53	105726
13	Jammu & Kashmir	33	100976
14	Jharkhand	57	226680
15	Karnataka	193	548001
16	Kerala	196	78105
17	Lakshadweep (UT)	1	15
18	Madhya Pradesh	294	1253715
19	Maharashtra	575	881860
20	Manipur	1	3000
21	Meghalaya	4	8200
22	Mizoram	3	4471
23	Nagaland	2	6150
24	Orissa	167	523139
25	Pondicherry (UT)	3	85
26	Punjab	655	2152003
27	Rajasthan	159	521387
28	Sikkim	2	2100
29	Tamil Nadu	168	316583
30	Tripura	14	45477
31	Uttar Pradesh	2250	13978608
32	Uttrakhand	44	148921
33	West Bengal	511	5940511
		7395	34050359

(Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) upto 2009, National Horticulture Board (NHB), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) & Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI))
