

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 330**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**SUPPORT TO POTATO CULTIVATORS IN ASSAM**

330. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that farmers of lower Assam suffered huge losses in potato cultivation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government will make arrangements for building of cold storages to support proper storage of agri produce in the area and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government will make necessary arrangements for transportation of the produce to other States?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government of Assam has reported losses in potato cultivation which is due to non-replacement of old less productive varieties which have low market demand like local seeds and Pokhraj. To overcome this situation, Government of Assam has introduced several processable and table varieties which have good market demand.

(b): Government is implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is available for setting up of cold storage for perishable horticultural produce throughout the country including Assam.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which financial assistance is provided for various horticulture activities including construction/Expansion/ Modernization of cold storages of capacity up to 5000 MT in the country wherein assistance in the form of credit linked back

ended subsidy is available at the rate of 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% of the project cost in hilly and scheduled areas through respective State Horticulture Missions.

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

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, 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.

(c): Under MIDH, Government also provides credit linked back-ended subsidy for Refrigerated Transport vehicles for transportation of perishable horticulture produce.

\*\*\*\*\*