

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6852  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000  
DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF ONIONS AND POTATOES  
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of demand and supply of potatoes and onions during each of the last three years;
- (b) the minimum storage limit prescribed for these items and its storage capacity in the country at present;
- (c) the details of the quantity of potato and onion got rotten last year; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to enhance the storage capacity to prevent perishing of such items?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) Information on demand of potato and onion is not available. The production of potato and onion for the last three years was as under which was available to meet the supply:

(Production in lakh Metric Tonnes)

Year	Potato	Onion
1997-98	176.5	34.78
1998-99	224.9	54.70
1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)	246.4	47.50

(b) As per the estimates of report of the High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storages and Storages, 150 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity is required for potato of which 103 lakh tonnes capacity is already available. Onion storage capacity requirement is estimated to be about 9.10 lakh tonnes of which 4.6 lakh tonnes storage capacity is already available in the country.

(c) No report on Quantity of potato and onion rotten has been reported.

(d) Government of India through National Horticulture Board is implementing a Capital investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Modernisation/Expansion of cold storages for horticultural produce. The subsidy is restricted to 33.3% to the maximum of Rs.60 lakhs for North-Eastern States and 25% to the maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs to other States of the country. Besides the Board is also providing assistance for marketing infrastructural support for horticultural produce.