

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3162

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004

TECHNOLOGY FOR IMPROVED STORAGE GODOWNS

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Munshiram Shri ;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed any storage technology to increase the self life and preserve quality and nutrition of grains, fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up such godowns in various States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the quantity of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables destroyed during the last three years due to lack of proper storage facility, year-wise and State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

- (a): Yes, Sir. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the technology for radiation processing of grains, fruits and vegetables for disinfestations. The technology helps in inhibition of sprouting in tubers, bulbs and rhizomes and delay in ripening in fruits and vegetables. It also helps in destruction of microbes responsible for food spoilage and elimination of parasites and pathogens of public health importance in food.
- (b) & (c): No, Sir. The Government currently does not propose to set up radiation processing plants in different States. However, Department of Atomic energy has set up two radiation processing plants one each at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and Lasaigaon near Nasik.
- (d): No authoritative estimates for post harvest losses including due to improper storage facility in foodgrain, fruits and vegetables are available. However, the post harvest losses are quoted to be 10% in foodgrains and 20-40% in fruits and vegetables.