

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2026

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 371

DATE OF REPLY : 15/07/2026

Subject : Establishment of Cold Storages and godowns under Mandia LAC.

Name of MLA : Shri SHERMAN ALI AHMED :

Will the Minister of Agriculture Department be pleased to state:

- a) Is the Government aware that there is huge production of potatoes under Mandia Development Block ?
- b) Is the Government aware that there is no Cold Storage in the said block ?
- c) Is the Government also aware that due to lack of preservation facilities and very low prices at the time of harvesting, many times farmers had to abandon their produces in the fields without harvesting and allow the potatoes to perish in the field ?
- d) In view of the above, will the Government be pleased to sanction a chain of Cold Storages under Mandia Block and help the farmers ?
- e) Will the Government also be pleased to facilitate export of potatoes from Mandia Block ?
- f) How many agricultural godowns are available under Mandia LAC ?
- g) In view of hotbed of agricultural produces, will the government be pleased to sanction godowns at Baghbar, Jania, Kalgachia Moinbari etc ?

Answer

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Pijush Hazarika, will Reply:

- (a) In recent years, a significant shift in the cropping pattern has been observed, with farmers gradually diversifying from traditional paddy cultivation to high-value horticultural crops such as potato and dragon fruit due to their better economic viability. Consequently, farmers in the Mandia Development Block have increasingly taken up potato cultivation in place of paddy, leading to a considerable increase in potato production in the area.
- (b) There are two Cold Storages nearby Mandia Area at Barpeta having storage capacity of 10000 MT and 2500 MT each.
- (c) During the peak harvesting season, potato growers often encounter distress sales due to a temporary glut in production, resulting in a sharp decline in market prices and reduced demand. To address this issue and minimize post-harvest losses, the Government is promoting the establishment of potato processing units (such as chips manufacturing units), cold storage facilities, and four-wheeler transport vehicles under the HMNEH Scheme.
Financial assistance amounting to 50% of the Total Financial Outlay (TFO) is provided for these components with the objective of enhancing value addition, strengthening post-harvest management, and improving farmers access to markets, thereby ensuring better price realization for their produce.
- (d) There is a provision in HMNEH Scheme under which any interested farmer or farmers group can apply for cold storage availing 50% subsidy. So, farmers of Mandia Block area can also avail this facility
- (e) Facilitation of potato exports may be considered only after the State achieves self-sufficiency in potato production.
- (f) One Rural Godown of 500 MT capacity at Mandia.
- (g) At present, there is no provision from Agriculture Department for construction of godowns at Baghbar, Jania, Kalgachia, and Moinbari for the FY 2026-27.
