

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:77  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003  
MARKETING FACILITIES TO FARMERS  
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;SHIVAJI MANE

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

- (a) whether farmers are not getting any benefit of marketing facilities to sell their produce in the market due to pressure of the traders;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide marketing facilities to the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Organized marketing of agricultural commodities in the country has been provided through a network of regulated markets. Regulated markets have helped in creating competitive trade environment thereby offering the best prices to the producers and consumers. Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) are corporate bodies established under the respective State Agricultural Marketing Regulation Acts. The APMCs manage the markets. The market yards are notified by the State Government under the respective State marketing Regulations Acts and are developed by State Governments, Marketing Boards and APMCs. As on 31.3.2003, 7383 markets have been covered under the respective State Marketing Regulation Acts. There are 27,294 rural primary markets, about 15% of which function under the ambit of market regulation.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has taken the following steps to further strengthen marketing facilities in the country:-

(i) State Governments have been requested to amend their respective State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act inter-alia to promote setting up of agricultural marketing infrastructure in private and cooperative sectors; promotion of direct marketing and contract farming, pledge financing and negotiable warehousing receipt system.

(ii) Under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Agriculture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, grants are being provided for development of Wholesale markets, Rural Primary Markets as well as strengthening of Laboratories for quality control in the region. As on 31.3.2003, Central assistance of Rs.1013.96 lakh has been granted for development of 20 wholesale markets, 92 Rural Primary Markets and strengthening of 14 State Grading Laboratories.

(iii) Under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Agricultural Marketing Information Network', a nationwide information network is being established for speedy collection and dissemination of price related data in respect of agricultural commodities for its efficient and timely utilization by the farmers. Under the scheme so far, 810 nodes covering important agricultural markets State Agricultural Marketing Boards/ Departments and offices of Directorate of Marketing & Inspection have been provided computer facilities and internet connectivity.

(iv) Under the Central Sector Scheme of construction of Rural Godowns (Grameen Bhandaran Yojana) assistance is provided for construction of godowns to provide scientific storage facilities in rural areas to prevent quantitative and qualitative losses of the produce of the farmers. Under the scheme, Central Government is providing subsidy @ 25% of the capital cost of the project. A higher subsidy of 33.3% of capital cost is provided for beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST and for North-Eastern States and hilly areas. So far under the scheme, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned 995 projects with a capacity of 59.29 lakh tonnes. National Cooperative Development Corporation has sanctioned 1575 projects with a capacity of 7.42 lakhs tonnes as on 31.3.2003.