

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1821
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any scheme for the development of agriculture marketing infrastructure grading and standardization;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this scheme is implemented in all the States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector scheme for `Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` with effect from 20.10.2004. Under the scheme, investment subsidy is provided @ 25% on the capital cost of the marketing infrastructure development project subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakh for each project in general and @ 33.3% of capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs.60 lakh for each project in case of North Eastern States, hilly areas and to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Governments/ State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme. The assistance is available to individuals, Group of farmers/ growers/ consumers, Partnership/ Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Cooperative Marketing Federations, Local Bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees & Marketing Boards in the entire country. Assistance is provided for the development of infrastructure projects in agriculture and allied sectors, and for creating user facilities like market yards, weighing etc., functional infrastructure like assembling, grading, labeling etc., and infrastructure for direct marketing, e-trading etc.

(c) & (d): The scheme has been approved for implementation in those States/ Union Territories that amend the law dealing with Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation (APMC) Act to allow setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Punjab and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been notified as eligible for grant of Central assistance under the scheme.

(e) The remaining States have not amended the law dealing with Agriculture markets as required under the Scheme.