

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:106

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR UNORGANIZED AND SMALL FARMERS

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to formulate schemes for helping unorganized and small farmers for marketability of their agricultural produce with respect of standardization and grading;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any specific proposals by Government of Karnataka in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for 'Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization' in the country with effect from 20.10.2004. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products.

Under this Scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including for grading, standardization and certification of agricultural produce and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets. The rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas and to entrepreneurs belonging to Schedules Caste/Scheduled Tribes, the rate of subsidy is, however, 33.33%. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States that amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), wherever required, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors. Individuals, group of farmers, growers and consumers etc. are eligible to receive assistance under the scheme.

(c): The State Government of Karnataka has not submitted any proposal for providing assistance under the scheme.

(d): Question does not arise.