

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:97

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

NON- AVAILABILITY OF COLD STORAGES AND GODOWNS

Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge wastage of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables due to non- availability of adequate godowns and cold storages facilities in rural areas every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to sanction adequate cold storages and godowns to meet the requirements of farmers during 2007-08;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the number of cold storages and godowns set up during 2006-07, so far, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 97 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH MARCH, 2007.

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. There is considerable wastage of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables due to post-harvest losses and inadequate availability of storage godowns and cold storage facilities in the rural areas. To minimize losses of agricultural produce, a Central Sector Scheme on `Grameen Bhandaran Yojana` is being implemented since 2001 for construction/renovation of rural godowns to create scientific storage capacity in the country. Under the scheme, credit linked back-ended subsidy is provided @ 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakh to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries and for projects located in the North Eastern States and hilly areas. The subsidy assistance to other category of farmers is @ 25% of the project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 37.50 lakhs. For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. `Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim` since 2001-02 which was extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Utrakhand during 2003-04 and `National Horticulture Mission` during 2005-06 for the remaining States. These schemes provide assistance for creating post- harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other areas. Besides, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes of `Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce` having the same norms.

During 2007-08 a provision of Rs. 70 crore has been made for construction of rural godowns of 15 lakh MT capacity under `Gramin Bhandaran Yojana` and Rs. 97.50 crore for 195 units of cold storages under `National Horticulture Mission` are targeted. As construction of rural godowns and cold storages is demand driven and entrepreneur based, no State-wise target has been fixed. However, adequate provision has been made in all the schemes for construction of cold storages to meet the requirement of farmers during 2007-08. The number of godowns and cold storages sanctioned during 2006-07 is given in Annexure I & II respectively.