

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:553
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
NEW AGRICULTURAL REFORMS
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to initiate new agricultural reforms; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to have adequate storage facilities for the excess food stock?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Government have taken several major initiatives in the recent past to accelerate the pace of development such as introduction of the Macro Management Scheme, preparation of common guidelines for Watershed Development Programmes, creation of a Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs.200 crore, launching of a Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of a Seed Bank, measures for increasing the availability of farm credit, introduction of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, expansion of the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, launching of a Market Information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions.

For the year 2002-03, the Government proposes to provide enhanced funds for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Kisan Credit Cards linked with insurance packages, separate corporation for agriculture insurance scheme, enhanced allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, decanalisation of export of agricultural commodities, expansion of futures and forward trading to cover all agricultural commodities, micro credit programme through Self Help Groups, establishment of Agri Export Zones etc.

The Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations have taken up measures for augmenting storage capacity, and have created a capacity of 2.78 lakh tones (up to December 2001) against the target of 3.61 lakh tonnes (2001-02). The Government has announced a National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains to reduce storage and transit losses at farm and commercial level, and to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in India.