

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:200
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005
MARKETING OF AGRO PRODUCTS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a): the number of agro clinics and agro-business centres set up under Rural Employment Generation Programme in the country during 2004-05 till date, State-wise;
- (b): the employment generated through the above schemes during the same period, State-wise; and
- (c): the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to promote marketing of agro products?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)to(c): A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2005.

(a)&(b): No agro clinics and agro-business centres have been set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Central Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. However, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central Government implements the scheme of Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri- Business Centres (ACABCs), as economically viable self-employment ventures, which provide extension and other services to farmers, on payment. During April 2004 - November 2005, 1667 ACABCs have been set up, generating 4397 employment opportunities. The State-wise details of ACABCs established and employment opportunities generated under the scheme during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (up to November 2005) are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c): The Ministry of Agriculture of the Central Government has formulated a scheme for `Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation`. Under this scheme, subsidy at the rate of 25 per cent of capital cost of the project is provided to entrepreneurs for construction of general or commodity-specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets. The rate of subsidy is 33.3 per cent for entrepreneurs belonging to the scheduled castes/tribes and those in the north-eastern States and hilly areas.