

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1816
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
MARKET FOR AGRO- PRODUCTS
Panda Shri Brahmananda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has assessed the need for improving marketing infrastructure for agro-products in the country ;
- (b) If so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ;
- (c) Whether the Government has initiated action to provide exclusive markets for various products like onions, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc.; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof State-wise ?

Answer

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

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : 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 Scheduled 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)&(d) : Subsidy under this scheme is available for setting up of commodity specific markets for various products like onions, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. anywhere in the country.