

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004

SCHEME FOR MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE OF AGRO PRODUCTS

Yadav Shri Ramakant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to strengthen marketing infrastructure of agro-products;
- (b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Government to implement the said scheme during the current financial year;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to establish new mandies in the country to strengthen the agro-marketing infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the details of the mandies to be established, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a Central Sector Scheme on 20.10.2004 for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization. Under the Scheme, credit linked back-ended subsidy shall be provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets, wholesale, rural periodic or in tribal areas. The Scheme is reform linked and assistance for development of infrastructure projects will be provided in those States/Union Territories which permit setting up of agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors and allow direct marketing and contract farming. The budget for this scheme for the current financial year 2004- 05 is Rs.40 crore.

(c)&(d): Setting up of agricultural markets is a State subject. As such, State Governments have to take the initiative for establishing new mandies as per their local requirements. The State Governments can avail Central assistance for establishing mandies under the new scheme subject to their fulfilling the requirement of reforms in their law dealing with agricultural markets (APMC Act).