

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:170

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers are unable to get remunerative prices for their produce due to lack of adequate agricultural marketing facilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any special scheme for developing a network of modern agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government for developing grading and standardisation of agricultural produce and inter-linking of important agricultural produce wholesale markets in the country; and
- (f) the allocation made for the said purpose during the above period?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 170 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH MARCH, 2011.

(a) & (b): The Government endeavors to ensure that farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce by assisting the States in improving the marketing infrastructure and implementing Price Support Schemes.

(c) & (d): In order to promote establishment of a network of modern agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country, the Government provides assistance under several schemes such as National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Details are at Annexure-I, II, III, IV and V.

(e) & (f): Under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937, grades and standards for 203 agriculture commodities have been notified and AGMARK certification is provided for these commodities. However, certification of agricultural commodities is voluntary under this Act. While funds are not released to the States for development of Grades and Standards, under two schemes viz. "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" and "Strengthening of Agmark Grading Facilities of Ministry of Agriculture", funds to the tune of Rs 3.10 crore have been released during the period from 2007-08 to 2010-11 (up to January 2011), for improvement of infrastructure in AGMARK Grading Laboratories under Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.

For dissemination of market related data for its efficient and timely utilization by producers, traders and consumers, a scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) has been launched to link important wholesale agricultural produce markets, State Agricultural Marketing Boards and Directorates all over the country. Assistance is provided for connectivity to the wholesale markets and State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates based on their proposals. There is no State-wise allocation of funds under this Scheme.