

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1587

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to develop relevant technologies and to attract private sector investment in agriculture, especially for storage and transport infrastructure, to tackle the agriculture crisis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): The Government is giving a boost through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for development of technologies for production, primary processing, value addition, low cost scientific storage and transportation of cereals, pulses, etc. Technology for storage and transportation of fruits and vegetables are also being established in production catchment areas.

In order to attract private sector investment in agriculture and to promote development of infrastructure and storage capacity, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing the following schemes:

(i) Development/Strengthening of Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS) is being implemented since 20.10.2004. Under the scheme, credit linked investment subsidy is provided. The scheme provides subsidy to private entrepreneurs through NABARD for the development of marketing and post harvest infrastructure projects in agriculture and allied sectors, including dairy, meat, fisheries and minor forest produce. The total number of projects sanctioned through NABARD upto 30.6.2011 are 4538 with a subsidy of Rs. 293.98 crore.

(ii) 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' was launched from 1-4-2001 for construction of Rural Godowns. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit. The scheme is demand-driven and Banks sanction the projects. Subsidy @ 25% is provided to all categories of farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives & CWC/ SWCs. All other categories of individuals, companies and corporations are being given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of North Eastern States/hilly areas and scheduled caste/scheduled tribe entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and women farmers, subsidy is provided @ 33.33%. The scheme has now been made more farmer friendly by allowing subsidy for smaller godowns of 50 MT size in general and of 25 MT in hilly areas. The number of projects sanctioned under the scheme upto 30.6.2011 is 24996 with the subsidy of Rs. 735.82 crores.

(iii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) provides assistance to attract private investment for creation of post harvest infrastructure for perishable horticulture produce including cold storage and refrigerated vehicles. Under this scheme till March, 2010 assistance was available @ 25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in hilly and tribal areas. In order to attract more private investment in this sector, the pattern of assistance under the scheme has been enhanced from April, 2010. For cold storages, assistance has been enhanced to 40% in general areas for the maximum project cost of Rs. 300.00 lakh and 55% in hilly and tribal areas. For refrigerated vehicle assistance is available at 40% in general areas and at 55% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of Rs. 24.00 lakh. The assistance is credit linked and back ended. Further, the Department has circulated technical standards and protocols for setting up of cold storage and refrigerated vehicles. The assistance available under this scheme is linked to these technical standards.

(iv) Under 'Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)' Scheme subsidy is being provided for establishment of cold storage infrastructure etc to attract private sector investment.