

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1020

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

STORAGE FACILITIES

Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Kishor Shri Kamal

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether farmers have inadequate storage facilities and holding capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that due to this, the farmers sell their produce soon after harvest to local traders/middlemen who store the goods and sell them at higher prices during lean period;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to enhance the infrastructural facilities for storage or establish warehouses storage facilities at all the States, Districts, Panchayats and Block Levels; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): The Draft Report of The Working Group on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Secondary Agriculture and Policy Required for Internal and External Trade for the XIth Five Year Plan has indicated storage capacity gap of nearly 57 million tonnes.

(c) to (f): In order to prevent distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers to local traders and middlemen, the Ministry of Agriculture launched a Central Sector Scheme for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns in 2001. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet the requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs; promotion of grading, standardization and quality Control of agricultural produce to improve their marketability; prevention of distress sale immediately after harvest by providing the facility of pledge financing and marketing credit etc. 27,110 projects having a capacity of 310.29 lakh metric tonnes have been sanctioned under the Scheme so far. The Central Warehousing Corporation is also operating 466 warehouses with a total storage capacity of 99.5 lakh metric tonnes.

Under the Scheme, the project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individuals, farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Companies, Corporations, Co-operatives, Local Bodies other than Municipal Corporations, Federations, and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards in the country. The scheme is demand-driven and not location specific. Banks sanction the projects depending on viability. Under the scheme, the entrepreneurs are free to construct godown at any place outside the limits of Municipal Corporation area.