

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4237
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
LOAN TO HORTICULTURE
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Horticulture Board (NHB) has formulated/proposes to formulate any scheme for providing financial assistance to farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided thereunder during the last three years, State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the details of financial assistance/ subsidy provided by NHB to the Horticulture sector during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the aforesaid period, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Namo Narain Meena)

(a) to (d): The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has informed that it is implementing following schemes for the development of hi-tech horticulture across the country where financial and technical assistance is provided :

(i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management for providing financial assistance to the farmers for hi-tech commercial horticulture. The financial assistance is provided in the form of credit-linked back-ended subsidy at the rate of 20 percent of the total project cost limited to Rs. 25 lakhs per project in general area and Rs. 30 lakhs in North-Eastern, Hilly and Scheduled areas. However, for capital intensive and high value crops under protected cultivation and open area cultivation of Date Palm, Olive and Saffron, subsidy is 25 percent of project cost with ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs (33 percent of project cost with ceiling of Rs. 60 lakhs for Scheduled and Hilly areas). For Post Harvest Management/Primary Processing related components, subsidy is provided @ 40 percent of the total project cost limiting to Rs. 50 lakhs per project in general areas and @ 55 percent of project cost limiting to Rs. 60 lakhs per project in Hilly and Scheduled areas. The subsidy for plastic crates is 50 percent of the total cost. The State-wise progress under the Scheme during 2010-11 to 2012-13 (as on 31.1.2013) is attached as Annex-I.

(ii) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/ Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce for providing credit linked back-ended subsidy to the eligible organizations @ 40 percent of the capital project cost in general areas and 55 percent in case of Hilly and Scheduled areas for maximum storage capacity of 5000 MT per project. The State-wise status of Cold Storages sanctioned under the Scheme during 2010-11 to 2012-13(as on 31.1.2013) is attached as Annex-II.

(iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture for providing financial assistance is provided for introduction of new technology, visit of progressive farmers, promotional and extension activities, technical knowhow from India/Abroad etc. The State-wise break-up of projects sanctioned under the Scheme during 2010-11 to 2012-13(as on 31.1.2013) is attached as Annex-III.