

districts of the country, out of the 150 backward districts identified by the Planning Commission. These subprojects are benefitting more than 50,000 farm families.

(b) The districts covered in Maharashtra are Gondia, Dhule, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Garhchiroli, Nandurbar, Chandrapur, Yeotmal, Hingoli, Raigarh and Nanded. Total 11 districts in Maharashtra are covered under NAIP.

(c) Of the above districts, Nandurbar, is a tribal-predominant district with 65.5% tribal population followed by Garhchiroli (38.5%) and Dhule (26%) as per 2001 census of Maharashtra.

(d) Presently, four districts of Vidarbha region namely Gondia, Garhchiroli, Chandrapur and Yeotmal are covered under NAIP. Further, there is no proposal at present to sanction more sub projects under the National Agricultural Innovation Project.

Requirement of cold storages

*510.DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the requirement of setting up cold storages in the country to preserve agricultural produce;

(b) whether Government proposes to allow external commercial borrowings in this sector; and

(c) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per extant policy, External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) can be raised for investments in cold storage or cold room facility, and farm level pre-cooling for preservation or storage of agricultural/horticulture and allied produce. ECB can be raised for investment such as import of capital goods (as classified by DGFT in the Foreign Trade Policy), new projects, modernization/expansion of existing production units in real sector – industrial sector including small and medium enterprises (SME), infrastructure sector and specified service sectors in India. Infrastructure sector includes cold storage or cold room facility, including for farm level pre-cooling, for preservation or storage of agricultural and allied produce, marine products and meat.

These details have been published under RBI's Master Circular on External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Trade Credits dated July 01, 2011 updated on January 20, 2012.

Subsidy to farmers for purchasing tools and equipments

†*511. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government used to give 50 per cent subsidy to farmers of all States for purchase of tools and equipments for agriculture and horticulture and now the subsidy has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the details of such tools and equipments and the details of the grant given in the year 2010-11, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to restart the subsidy grant;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India continues to provide financial subsidy ranging from 25% to 50% to farmers of all States for purchase of various agricultural and horticultural tools and equipments. Farmers can avail benefits of financial subsidy for procurement of agricultural and horticultural tools and equipments under following major ongoing schemes of the Ministry:—

- (1) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);
- (2) National Food Security Mission (NFSM);
- (3) National Horticulture Mission (NHM);
- (4) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

(b) Details of agricultural and horticultural tools and equipments available under these schemes along with quantum of subsidy are given in Statement-I (*See below*). Details of releases made, State-wise, during the year 2010-11, under above schemes for procurement of agricultural and horticultural tools and equipments are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.