

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The national level evaluation study of the scheme conducted during 2005 has found that the Scheme has achieved its major objectives. The study has found that 95% of godowns are used to store agricultural output and that the 70% of godown owners are predominantly farmers. Hence, the rural godowns are largely benefiting the farmers.

Since inception of the scheme on 01.04.2001, a total number of 19018 rural godowns were constructed throughout the country upto 31.3.2012.

(c) The Scheme is demand driven and credit linked and the entrepreneur is free to prepare the project as per the Operational guidelines and submit to Bank and the subsidy is provided to the eligible projects which are appraised and approved by the concerned Banks. The subsidy at the rates of 33.33% is given for North East States, Sikkim and hilly areas with a maximum ceiling of Rs.3.33 crore. Subsidy at the rate of 33.33% is also given to women farmers, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs, their Self Help Groups and Cooperatives with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 3.00 crore. Subsidy at the rate of 25% is given to farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives and CWC/SWCs with a maximum ceiling of Rs.2.25 crore and 15% subsidy is given to all other categories of individuals, companies and corporations with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1.35 crore.

Development of horticulture in North-Eastern Region

2333. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to develop horticulture as the main economic activity in the North-Eastern region;

(b) the immediate steps being taken to develop linkages between the farmers and market for achieving better remunerative prices; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to develop infrastructure in the North-Eastern region to revitalize the hill agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) In order to develop horticulture in North-Eastern region, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation extends financial assistance under

Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) schemes to increase production and productivity of horticulture crops, creation of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure and setting up of processing units.

Under HMNEH scheme, 407 markets, 27 cold storages and 36 processing units have been established in North-Eastern region since 2001-2002.

Low production of pulses

2334. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yield of pulses is low in our country compared to yield in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of yield of pulses in the country;

(c) whether any Government/private agency has suggested measures to increase the yield to control the inflation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per information available with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available), comparative position of yield of pulses in India *vis-a-vis* other major countries is as under:-

(Kg/Hectare)

Country	Yield
1	2
India*	691
Australia	1089
Canada	1814
China	1396