

Financial assistance for establishment of storage facilities

1408. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of storage/cold storage facilities in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government provides financial assistance to State Governments for establishment of storage/cold storage units; and

(c) the availability of storage facilities in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) The XII Plan Working Group on 'Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Secondary Agriculture and Policy Required for Internal and External Trade' has estimated a requirement of 35 million Metric Tonnes (MT) storage capacity during XII Plan period.

The Committee on Encouraging Investments in Supply Chain constituted by Planning Commission estimated a shortage of about 37 million tonnes in cold storage capacity in 2010. An additional cold storage capacity of 7.37 million MT has been created since January 2010 till March 2014 under various schemes of the Government.

(b) Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), Central Government provides financial assistance for establishment of storage/ cold storage units to various categories of promoters, including State Governments @ 25% for General Category and 33.33% for special categories.

National Horticulture Mission (NHM) under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture in the country provides assistance for post harvest management including setting up/ expansion/ modernization of cold storages for fruits and vegetables. Under post harvest component, assistance is provided to States/Union Territories (UTs) for such interventions based on their Annual Action Plans for development of entrepreneur driven commercial ventures. Assistance is by way of credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also through Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) provides finance to various stakeholders including State Governments for supporting creation of storage infrastructure including warehouses, silos and cold chain activities in the sector.

Department of Food and Public Distribution also provides financial assistance in form of grant-in-aid to State Governments of North Eastern Region and Jammu & Kashmir for construction of intermediate storage godowns for foodgrains under its Plan Scheme.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) through Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, also provides financial assistance to various stakeholders including Central/State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) @ 50% of the total cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern region and difficult areas subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 crore per project.

(c) Under Storage component (erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana) of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), since inception in April, 2001, till the end of March, 2015, a total of 583 godowns with a capacity of 34,96,782 MT have been sanctioned and a subsidy of Rs. 13501.99 lakhs has been released in the State of Telangana. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, a total of 1225 godowns with a capacity of 48,33,180 MT have been sanctioned and a subsidy of Rs. 17982.68 lakhs has been released.

The cold storage capacity created under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) up to 31.03.2015 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is 3.37 lakh MT and 2.54 lakh MT respectively.

The storage capacity with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies as on 31.3.2015 for Central Pool foodgrains in the States of Telangana is of 1.02 lakh MT and in Andhra Pradesh 17.96 lakh MT respectively.

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is also operating 28 Warehouses with a total storage capacity of 12.03 lakh MT in the State of Andhra Pradesh 18 warehouses with a total storage capacity of 16.08 lakh MT in the State of Telangana.

Reduction in agricultural land

1409. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the agricultural land in the country is shrinking constantly, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are leaving cultivation and migrating to urban areas in search of livelihood; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to resolve the situation?