

(b) Considering the multiplicity of agencies involved and the need for overall aggregation and integration at the national level, it has been considered appropriate to implement Digital India as a programme, with well defined roles and responsibilities of each agency involved and to create an appropriate programme management structure. Line Ministries/Departments are responsible for the implementation of the relevant components under the Digital India Programme.

Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) is the overall coordinating Department for the implementation of Digital India by various Line Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments.

Decontrolling urea prices

*134. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether urea is the only fertilizer yet to be decontrolled;
- (b) whether Government has an accumulated unpaid bill for subsidies worth ₹ 40,000 crore;
- (c) Whether Government is considering decanalization or freeing up of import and other ways in which urea prices could be decontrolled; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. Urea is not the only controlled fertilizer.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal in the Department of Fertilizers at present.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Storage facilities for farmers

*135. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether storage facilities in the rural areas are either totally absent or grossly inadequate and under such conditions farmers are compelled to sell their produce immediately after the harvest at the prevailing market prices which are bound to be low and such distress sale deprives the farmers of their legitimate income;

(b) whether Government has ascertained as to how much crop is lost due to poor storage conditions; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to provide storage facilities to farmers near their fields, and in particular to the small and marginal farmers, to prevent losses.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) As per Study Report (2004) of “State of the Farmer-A Millennium Study”; estimated Marketable Surplus Ratio (MSR) in food grains is 60% of food grain production. Accordingly, the marketable surplus in 2013-14 was approximately 159.00 million Metric Tonnes (MT) of food grains. The total storage capacity owned/created by various agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State agencies including State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), Cooperatives and private parties as on May, 2015 is 121.11 million MT. The augmentation of storage facilities in rural areas will improve the holding capacity of farmers, thus preventing any sale immediately after harvest and will allow instead opportunities to avail better returns subsequently.

The Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its Report, 2012 has estimated post-harvest losses of major crops and live stock produce occurring at different stages of marketing operations based on data of 2005 - 07. This Report has also estimated storage losses at farm level storage, godown/warehouse level storage, wholesaler level storage, retailer level storage and processing unit level storage. When considered cumulatively, the total storage losses due to inadequate and poor storage is estimated to be 0.98% to 1.29% of production in case of cereals, while it is 0.86% to 1.96% in case of pulses and in case of oilseeds, it is 0.41% to 0.96%.

In order to provide storage facilities to the farmers including small and marginal farmers near their fields to reduce losses, the Government has since 1.4.2001 been implementing the Gramin Bhandaran Yojana [since subsumed into Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) w.e.f 01.04.2014]. Under the Scheme, from April, 2001 and up to June, 2015, 35,226 godowns with a capacity of 555.13 lakh MT have been sanctioned for construction and renovation and a subsidy of ₹ 1908.50 crore has been released. Of this, a total of 28,694 godowns with a capacity of 480.59 lakh MT have been constructed and a total of 1743 godowns with a capacity of 22.13 lakh MT have been renovated. Further other schemes which include, *inter-alia*, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY),

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are also promoting creation of scientific storage for agriculture produce. In addition, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is also assisting cooperatives in the rural areas to construct godowns for storing agri inputs and farm produce.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Compensation for crop damage due to natural calamities

1281. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides any compensation/relief to the farmers for the damage of their crops due to natural calamities including hailstorms;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the norms or modalities adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether the financial assistance being provided as compensation/relief to the farmers is adequate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) State Government is empowered to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities like, drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature on receipt of Memorandum from the State Government. On request by any State Government, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation constitutes and Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to visit the States for assessing damages including crop loss for recommending financial assistance from NDRF. Based on the report of the IMCT, Sub Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) recommends extent of admissible assistance as per laid down items and norms of assistance from NDRF/SDRF for approval of the High Level Committee (HLC) to sanction central assistance from NDRF. The norms for relief under SDRF/NDRF are ₹ 6800/- per hectare for rainfed crops, ₹ 13,500/- per ha. For assured irrigated crops and ₹ 18,000/- per ha. for all type of perennial crops, where crop loss is more than 33% and above.