

In addition to this the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is also implementing Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) throughout the country under which back ended capital subsidy (25% of the total sanctioned project cost for General Category and 33.33% for Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste beneficiaries) is provided through eligible financial institutions, subject to the norms of the scheme. Under the scheme induction of high yielding animals of indigenous breeds is also permitted.

Storage of agricultural produces

2885. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-harvest storage of agricultural produces is a big problem of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to prevent damage to foodgrains due to natural calamities such as floods, droughts and frost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season for Public Distribution System (PDS), the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 30.06.2017 was 794.48 Lakh MT, hence, is sufficient. Storage capacity of 577.6 Lakh MT has also been created under the scheme Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) (erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana) and 194.64 Lakh MT capacity under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). 159 Lakh MT storage capacities has been created by Cooperative Sector.

(b) and (c) The DAC&FW is implementing various schemes to strengthen the marketing infrastructure including post-harvest storage of agricultural produce in scientific manner in order to reduce post-harvest losses.

- (i) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for reduction of post-harvest losses in the country which includes assistance for development of Post-harvest Management (PHM) and Marketing infrastructure. Post-harvest management component includes establishment of cold storages, staging cold room, pack house, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer vans, primary/mobile processing units, integrated pack house and setting up of ripening chambers etc.
- (ii) Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure including storage infrastructure for effectively managing marketable surplus of agricultural produce.

Interest subsidy to farmers for short-term loan

2886. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has brought Interest Subvention Scheme for the farmers in view of agrarian unrest and increased number of suicides, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of interest subsidy which would be given for short-term loan to farmers;

(c) whether loans for post-harvest storage of their produces would be given to farmers at a subsidized interest rate, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other relief measures that are being offered to farmers who are in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing Interest Subvention Scheme since 2006-07, under which, interest subvention is provided to Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks so as to enable these financial institutions to provide short term crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh to farmers at subvented interest rate of 7% per annum. In 2017-18, keeping in view farmers' interest, the Government decided to continue with the scheme and to provide interest subvention @ 2% per annum to lending institutions so as to enable them to further disburse short term crop loan up to ₹ 3 lakh at a subvented interest rate of 7% per annum. In addition, a prompt repayment incentive of 3% is also being provided to such of the farmers who repay their crop loans within