

demand/entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc. through commercial ventures.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (now subsumed under Kissan Sampada Yojana) to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities including irradiation from the farm gate to the consumer or from the production site to the market. Under this scheme ministry provides financial assistance in the form grant-in-aid @ 35% for general area and @ 50% for North-East States, Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Island for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10.00 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facilities. Ministry has so far sanctioned four irradiation facilities in the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Assistance for micro irrigation under PMKSY**

\*141. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the rate of assistance, for the post harvest management, for the small and marginal farmers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the micro irrigation assistance is to be increased to 70 per cent under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to enhance the rate of assistance for post harvest management for the small and marginal farmers.

(b) As per operation guidelines of PMKSY "Per Drop More Crop" (micro irrigation), the pattern of assistance of Micro Irrigation is 55% for small and marginal farmers and 45% for other farmers. At present, there is no proposal for enhancing the said pattern of assistance.

#### **Suicides by farmers**

†\*142. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of suicides by farmers in certain parts of the country have increased considerably during the last three years and current year, if so, details

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.