

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1485
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/12/2021

STORAGE FACILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

1485 SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide adequate storage facility for agricultural produce and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that farmers are facing difficulties due to lack of storage facility and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Government proposes to construct sufficient storage facility in the country considering the demands of farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Odisha;
- (e) whether Government proposes to provide interest-free loans to farmers for building sufficient storage facility; and
- (f) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The Government is implementing Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) under which assistance is provided for construction/ renovation of godowns/ warehouses in the rural areas in the States to enhance the storage capacity for agriculture produce. Under the scheme, Government provides subsidy at the rate of 25% and 33.33% on capital cost of the project based on the category of eligible beneficiary. Assistance is available to Individuals, Farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Agri-preneurs, Registered Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, and state agencies etc. The scheme is demand driven.

Since 01.04.2001 and up to 30.09.2021, a total of 40,985 storage infrastructure projects (Godowns), with storage capacity of 708.67 Lakh MT have been assisted under AMI sub-scheme in entire country. A total of 695 projects, with storage capacity of 10.19 Lakh MT have been assisted in Odisha State under AMI sub scheme.

Further, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, deals with creation of storage facilities for foodgrains procured under the Public Distribution System. Depending on requirement in specific areas and for modernization of the storage facilities, the Government implements Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme & Central Sector Scheme (erstwhile Plan Scheme). Under PEG Scheme, 144.34 Lakh MT capacity has been created out of which 3.57 Lakh MT is in Odisha region.

(e) & (f): Government has approved a new central sector scheme viz., Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Rs. 1,00,000 Crore to provide a medium-long term loan facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest market infrastructure including warehousing facility and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. AIF provides financial support in terms of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee on loans for post harvest management projects like Warehouses, Cold Chains, Silos etc. and building community farming asset projects. Under the scheme, loans are provided by banks and financial institutions to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project. All loans under this financing facility have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs.2 crore. This subvention is available for a maximum period of 7 years. Further, credit guarantee coverage is available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs.2 crore. So far, Rs.4152.6 Crore have been sanctioned for 4503 warehouse projects.
