

2001-02 respectively. With the launching of the Macro Management scheme, the State Governments are vested with the responsibility to prioritize their programmes in accordance with their felt needs.

**Multi-Level Handling of Foodgrains and Horticulture**

1921. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to multi level handling of food-grains and horticulture products and vegetables, result in loss of weight and quality and thereby cause financial loss to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The exact loss of weight and quality due to multi level handling of food-grains is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the food-grains in various stages at 9.33 percent. A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection during 1973-74 had estimated post harvest losses in food-grains to be about 5 percent. A joint study conducted by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985—88 in Bulandshahr district of U.P. had estimated total loss in wheat at about 4.12 percent due to different factors at various post harvest stages.

As per the Report of the Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Exports for the Ninth Plan, it is estimated that the losses vary between 8 percent to 37 percent for various fruits and vegetables.

(c) To reduce/check the damage to food-grains during the post harvest period, the Government of India launched Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. At present 14 main teams and 3 sub teams of Save Grain Campaign are functioning throughout the country. The main activities of this organization are training, demonstration and publicity programmes in the field of scientific storage of food-grain at

farm level. Besides, improvement of food-grain storage structures and popularization of scientific storage structures like metal bins pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB), which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure:—

- (i) Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of Cold Storages/Storages for horticulture produce;
- (ii) Development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management of horticultural products.

These schemes would, inter-alia, help in checking losses in weight and quality of horticultural produce and thereby provide benefits to farmers.

#### **Watershed Development Programmes**

1922. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring all the watershed development programmes under single umbrella for its implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) total degraded land area rehabilitated since the implementation of the programme till date;

(d) whether NABARD has also set up any special fund for watershed development fund;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the progress made through this fund in current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to bring all the Watershed Development