

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 195
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03/02/2023

NEW AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND MECHANIZATION

195. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

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

- (a) the number of agricultural infrastructure created till now to boost the production and educate the farmers of the North Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) the major steps taken towards mechanization and support to the farmers to adopt mechanization; and
- (c) steps taken towards upgradation of the storage facilities and food processing units?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Since the inception of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme in July 8, 2020, Rs 152 crore was sanctioned by Banks and other lending institutions to create 144 infrastructure units are sanctioned under the Scheme in the NER region. This includes 78 Primary processing Centres, 26 Warehouses, 5 Cold Stores and Cold chains, 2 Sorting and Grading Units and 33 other miscellaneous infrastructure projects.

In order to support farmers in adopting mechanization and modernizing Indian agriculture, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme provides for incentives by way of 3 % Interest subvention on AIF Loans and reimbursement of guarantee fee on collateral-free AIF loans lent by lenders for Farm/Harvest Automation, setting up of Custom Hiring Centres, Purchase of drones, putting up specialized sensors on field, Block chain and AI in agriculture etc. Introduction of Remote sensing and Internet of Things (IOT) such as automatic weather station, Farm advisory services through GIS applications constitute other such initiatives in the category of Infrastructure for smart and precision agriculture. AIF also aims at improvising Supply chain services that includes creation of e-marketing platforms.

In order to give a fillip to the food processing units, under AIF scheme primary processing is encouraged and convergence of this Scheme with other Government Scheme is being facilitated to offer multiple Scheme benefits to beneficiaries. Other initiatives include creation and modernization of storage and Primary Processing activities and improving cold chain which include: Reefer Van & Insulated vehicles, Ripening chamber and Sorting and Grading units.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), provide assistance for development of Post Harvest Management (PHM) for perishable horticulture crops which includes establishment of pack house, Integrated pack house, pre-cooling, staging cold room, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer transport, setting up of ripening chambers and Integrated cold chain supply system etc. This scheme also provides assistance for setting up of food processing units in North East and Himalayan States only. For Food Processing Units credit linked back ended assistance @ 50% of eligible project cost, in North Eastern and Himalayan States of the maximum project cost of Rs. 800.00 lakh/unit is available.

Under **Agricultural Marketing infrastructure (AMI)** sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) since inception i.e. from 01.04.2001 and up to 31.12.2022, a total of 42164 storage infrastructure projects (Godowns) with capacity of 740.43 Lakh MT have been assisted in the country.

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme has been implemented in 704 districts of 28 States & 5 UTs to educate the farmers. Under the scheme Grants-in-aid is released to the State Government with an objective to support State Governments' efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector (including boost up the production and educate the farmers) to farmers through different extension activities viz; Farmers Training, Demonstration, Exposure Visit, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Group and organizing Farm Schools etc.

Under **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** Scheme of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, a farm machinery training and testing institute at Biswanath Chariali in 1990. The institute is imparting training to farmers, technicians, engineers, rural youths and women in the field of tractors and agricultural machines. The institute pays stipend to farmers @Rs.200 per day along with to & fro from their residence to attend training. Institute organizes field's demonstrations and training at villages also. Under this scheme, the training institutes organize demonstrations of advanced machines in the field and garden friendly tools and equipments. Besides these institutes tests the machines as per BIS codes to ensure supply of quality machines to farmers.

A total of 489 food processing units have been approved by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC) scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with total project cost of Rs. 7907.26 Cr. including grants-in-aid of Rs. 1890.30Crore in NER.
