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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 217
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/08/2026

SCHEMES FOR HORTICULTURE FARMERS

*217: SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

(a) the schemes and programs, such as subsidies for planting materials, irrigation, and cold storage facilities, currently in place to support horticulture farmers;
(b) whether there are any financial incentives, low-interest loans or grants available for farmers engaged in horticulture, particularly for those growing high-value crops like fruits, vegetables and flowers; and
(c) the manner in which Government is addressing the infrastructure needs of horticulture farmers, such as the development of cold chains, marketing facilities, and logistics?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 217 DUE FOR REPLY ON 07/08/2026 REGARDING SCHEMES FOR HORTICULTURE FARMERS.

(a): The Government is implementing various schemes and programmes, under which financial assistance is provided for various components including quality planting materials, irrigation and cold storage facilities to support horticulture farmers. The details of the schemes as under:

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme is being implemented across the country with the objectives of enhancing horticultural productivity, improving quality of produce, promoting climate-resilient technologies, strengthening post-harvest management and value chain infrastructure, and increasing farmers' income. Financial assistance under MIDH is provided for the production and distribution of quality seeds and planting material of horticultural crops through the establishment of nurseries and Tissue Culture (TC) units to ensure the availability of disease-free planting material to farmers.

The Government is implementing the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme to promote micro-irrigation for enhancing water use efficiency at the farm level and increasing crop productivity through efficient water management. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti complements the efforts of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare by implementing the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the creation of irrigation potential, command area development, and efficient water management.

Under MIDH, financial assistance is provided for strengthening post-harvest infrastructure in the horticulture sector, including the establishment of cold storage facilities with a capacity of up to 5,000 MT. In addition, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing the scheme, "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products", under which credit-linked back-ended assistance for the eligible project cost for cold storage facilities with a capacity above 5,000 MT and up to 20,000 MT.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements the Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure as one of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce and providing remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme across the country is being implemented to mobilize financing facility for investment in post-harvest infrastructures projects including cold storages.

(b) & (c): The Government is implementing various schemes for providing financial incentives, low-interest loans or grants and also for post-harvest management, cold chain development, marketing infrastructure and logistics support to address the infrastructure needs of horticulture farmers. The details are as follows:

Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), financial assistance is provided at 40%–50% of the eligible cost for the cultivation of high-value horticultural crops, such as fruits, vegetables, and flowers, under open field conditions. For cultivation under protected conditions, such as polyhouses and greenhouses, financial assistance is provided at 50% of the maximum permissible cost, subject to a maximum area of 4,000 square metres per beneficiary, to promote the production and productivity of high-value horticultural crops. Further, financial assistance is provided for creation of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure such as integrated packhouses, packhouses, pre-cooling units, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storages, ripening chambers, refrigerated transport vehicles, primary/mobile processing units, and retail marketing infrastructure.

Further, to promote the commercial cultivation of high-value horticultural crops, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) provides financial assistance @ 40%-50% of the eligible project cost for Commercial Horticulture Development projects under open field and protected cultivation. In addition, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing the scheme, ‘Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/ Expansion/ Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products’ under which credit-linked back-ended assistance is provided at 35%–50% of the eligible project cost for cold storage facilities with a capacity above 5,000 MT and up to 20,000 MT. The Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (HCDP) has been launched for selected high-value horticultural crops to leverage the geographical specialisation of horticulture clusters and promote integrated, market-led development across the horticulture value chain, including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, branding, and marketing.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements the Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure as one of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce and providing remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided at the rate of 35% of the eligible project cost in general areas and 50% in the North Eastern and Himalayan States, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure.

Further, MoFPI is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprise (PMFME) Scheme to provide financial, technical and business support for setting up of new/ upgradation of micro food processing enterprises in the country. The Scheme provides 35% credit-linked capital subsidy to eligible micro food processing enterprises, Seed Capital support to Self Help Group (SHG) members, Capacity Building through Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) and product-specific training, assistance for Branding & Marketing and support for Common Infrastructure such as processing, storage, packaging, testing and incubation facilities.

To facilitate institutional credit and strengthen agriculture infrastructure in the country, Government has launched Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) with an outlay of Rs. 1.00 lakh crore. The scheme focuses on strengthening agri/ horti-logistics, reducing post- harvest losses, promoting modern storage, processing and value-addition facilities and improving farm-gate level infrastructure for efficient supply chains. Under the scheme, banks and financial institutions provide loans with 3% per annum interest subvention, wherein the interest rate is capped at 9%. Credit guarantee coverage for eligible projects with loans up to ₹ 2 crore is also supported under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and NAB Sanrakshan.

Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), a Central Sector Scheme is being implemented aimed at ensuring the availability of short-term credit to farmers at an affordable interest rate through Kisan Credit card (KCC). Under the Scheme, farmers receive short-term loans of up to Rs.3 lakh through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) at a subsidized interest rate of 7%, with 1.5% interest subvention provided to eligible lending institutions. Additionally, farmers repaying loans promptly are eligible for an incentive of up to 3% as Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) effectively reducing their interest rate on KCC loans to 4%.

In addition, the Government has been implementing the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) since 2016. The e-NAM platform enables farmers to sell their produce to a larger pool of buyers through transparent online bidding, facilitating competitive price discovery. The platform provides farmers access to buyers across the State and the country and enables direct transfer of sale proceeds to their bank accounts. It also provides access to markets, real-time price information, quality assaying of agricultural produce, and infrastructure for cleaning, grading, sorting, and packaging. Through the platform, farmers can obtain information on e-NAM mandis located within a radius of 100 km, along with route maps and prevailing market prices, to make informed marketing decisions. The platform also provides an electronic payment system for transfer of sale proceeds to farmers. The features such as online farmer registration, farm-gate trading, direct participation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), integration with AGMARKNET for market price information, and a multilingual mobile application facilitate market access and enhance transparency.

In order to promote and strengthen the development of post-harvest and agricultural marketing infrastructure, including storage infrastructure and with a view to reducing post-harvest losses and distress sales and enhancing market access for farmers, Government is implementing Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) scheme which is a capital investment, open-ended, demand-driven, credit-linked, back-ended subsidy scheme. Under the scheme, capital subsidy is provided at 33.33% of the eligible project cost for projects in the North Eastern Region (NER), hilly areas, and for women, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) promoters, PACS, and FPOs. For other eligible beneficiaries, subsidy is provided at 25% of the eligible project cost.

Further, the Pradhan Mantri–Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) DPR component is a project-based funding scheme providing states with up to 30% of total RKVY allocations for infrastructure creation, innovation, and gap-filling horticultural/agricultural projects not covered under other schemes.

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