GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3372 TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST. 2023

RYTHU BHAROSA KENDRAS

3372. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI: SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to provide any support to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the completion of 4,200 godowns project to be undertaken to improve the functioning of Rythu Bharosa Kendras;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of other such measures being taken to improve storage facilities for farmers in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme (AIF) launched during 2020, is a financing facility of ₹ 1,00,000 crore which envisages interest subvention of 3% per annum upto a limit of ₹ 2 crore and credit guarantee coverage upto that limit with the provision for reimbursement of guarantee fee for a maximum period of 7 years. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been tentatively allocated a sum of Rs 6540 crore under AIF funding Agriculture Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate & aggregation points (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Farmers Producer Organizations, Agriculture entrepreneurs, Start-ups, etc.) during the currency of the Scheme. Setting up warehouses and cold storages to reinvigorate the storing capacity is an eligible activity under the AIF Scheme. In fact, PACS, SHGs, FPOs, multi-service cooperatives and other farmer groups are encouraged to set up post-harvest infrastructure units and community farming assets to prevent post-harvest losses, add value to farmers and increase their income.

Rythu Bharosa Kendras are directly involved in AIF finance through their integration with PACS which get the scheme benefits of AIF for setting up warehouses apart from other infrastructures. 1367 projects of Rythu Bharosa Kendras / PACS with a total amount of Rs.1519.00 crore have been sanctioned which includes in principle projects sanctioned by NABARD. Out of the total sanctioned projects, for 209 projects, a loan of Rs 25.00 crore has been disbursed upto 25th July, 2023.

(d): Apart from AIF Scheme, the following schemes are also being implemented in DA&FW in order to improve the storage facilities for farmers in the country:

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), provides assistance for development of PostHarvest 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.

For creation of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) including Scientific Storage and to reduce post-harvest and handling losses, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is implementing sub-scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) across the country. It is an open ended, Demand driven and credit linked scheme wherein back-ended capital subsidy @ 25% and 33.33% is available based on the eligible category of the beneficiary. Assistance is available to Individuals, Farmers, Groups of farmers/growers, Agri-preneurs, Registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, state agencies, etc.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (Infrastructure and Assets): Projects under this stream will emanate from State Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme (ASIDP). This will normally include projects selected on the basis of normative requirement of infrastructure, actual availability thereof and the gap in agriculture infrastructure in the state viz. setting up of laboratories and testing facilities, storage including cold-storages, mobile vans, agricultural marketing, etc.