

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2328
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/08/2024**

World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector

**2328. DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:
SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:**

Will the Minister of COOPERATION (सहकारिता मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to overcome the shortage of food grain storage facility across the country by converging various existing schemes of the Government, if so, the names of schemes which are being converged in this regard;
- (b) the level at which the said Schemes are likely to be converged in future;
- (c) the details including the steps taken to implement the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan (Large Anna Bhandar Yojana)” initiative in Cooperative Sector as approved by the Government in 2023 including its primary objectives & advantages it aims to deliver, its current status and States/ UTs where said initiative/ project is being implemented;
- (d) the expectations from the above initiative to alleviate the issues surrounding foodgrains storage in the country benefiting both farmers and consumers;
- (e) the details of the benefits likely to accrue at Panchayat/village level under the said scheme;
- (f) the manner in which the farmers are likely to get remunerative prices for their produce due to the scheme; and
- (g) the manner in which food security is likely to be ensured though the same?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)**

(a) to (g): Yes, Sir. In order to address the shortage of food grain storage facility across the country, the Government on 31.05.2023, has approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, which has been rolled out as a Pilot Project. The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure at Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) level, including warehouses, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as,

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc. under which PACS can avail interest subvention and subsidies for setting up of agri infrastructure.

Under the Pilot Project of the Plan, construction of godowns has been completed in 11 PACS of 11 States- Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Telangana, Tripura and Rajasthan, with the support of NCDC, NABARD & NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS).

Lack of adequate decentralized storage facilities leads to post harvest losses and spoilage of food grains. Creation of decentralized godowns at Panchayat level will alleviate these issues by reducing post-harvest losses, thus also ensuring food security of the country. It would also reduce the cost incurred in transportation of food grains to procurement centres and again transporting the stocks back from warehouses to Fair Price Shop (FPS) as PACS would themselves be able to operate as procurement centre and FPS. This will financially strengthen not only PACS but their farmer members as well. It also aims to provide various benefits to the farmers and consumers, including the following:

- i. Farmers will be able to store their produce in the godown constructed at PACS and avail bridge finance for the next cycle of crop and sell the produce at a time of their choice, or sell their whole crop to the PACS at Minimum Support Price (MSP), which would enable them to get remunerative prices for their produce
- ii. They will be able to get various agri inputs and services at the Panchayat/ village level itself.
- iii. Through diversification of business, farmers will be able to get additional sources of income.
- iv. Through integration with the food supply management chain, farmers will be able to expand their market size and realize better value for their produce.
- v. In addition to the above, this Plan would help in ensuring food security at Panchayat/ village level across the country, thereby benefitting the consumers.
