

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2967
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH MARCH, 2025
CONSTRUCTION OF COLD STORAGE FOR ONION

2967. MD ABU TAHER KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that most people in Murshidabad District are dependent on onion farming which is one of the valuable crop here;
- (b) whether the Government is also aware that farmers of Murshidabad are suffering due to the lack of appropriate preservation facilities of onion, if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (c) the steps taken to construct the cold storage for onions, particularly in Murshidabad district?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): As per the information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal, the total cultivable area in the District of Murshidabad is 3.65 lakh ha out of which 13071 ha is used for onion cultivation.

(b): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing Operation Greens scheme as one of the component schemes of the Centre Sector Umbrella Scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) since 2018-19. Under Operation Greens-Long Term Interventions Scheme, MoFPI provides financial assistance @35% of eligible project cost for projects in General Areas and @50% of eligible project cost for projects in Difficult Areas as well as for projects of SC/ST, FPOs and SHGs with maximum grants-in-aid of ₹15 crore per project for setting up of Integrated Value Chain Development Projects and that of ₹10 crore per project for setting up of Standalone Post Harvest Infrastructure Projects in the identified production cluster of 22 perishable crops including Onions.

Under Operation Greens scheme, financial assistance is provided as grant-in-aid for formation of FPOs (Farmer Producer Organization), setting up of post-harvest processing and marketing infrastructure in the identified production clusters.

Under the scheme, MoFPI has approved 44 Operation Greens projects for various identified crops in identified cluster. None of the project has been sanctioned in Murshidabad, West Bengal.

Further, as per the information received from Government of West Bengal, the Department of FPI & Horticulture, Govt. of WB has already constructed Low cost onion storage Structure (25 MT) under MIDH scheme through District Horticulture Office, Murshidabad for individual beneficiary as follows-

Year	No of unit constructed	Remarks
2020-21	85	Estimated Capacity for onion storage: 10,425 MT
2021-22	27	
2022-23	106	
2023-24	104	
2024-25	95	
Total	417	

The State Government of West Bengal has also reported that a total subsidy of Rs. 364.875 lakh has been released to beneficiaries of Murshidabad district. In addition to above, in Murshidabad district, other Departments have also constructed Onion Storage for 1908 MT capacity under different State Govt. Schemes.

(c): Government is implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is available for setting up of cold storage for perishable horticultural produce throughout the country.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which financial assistance is provided for various horticulture activities including Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of cold storages of capacity up to 5000 MT in the country including Uttar Pradesh on the basis of Annual Action Plan (AAP) received from States/UTs. AAPs are prepared by the States/UTs based on their requirement, capacity and availability of resources. The component of Cold Storage is demand/entrepreneur driven for which Government assistance in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy is available at the rate of 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% of the project cost in hilly and scheduled areas through respective State Horticulture Missions.

Under the scheme, assistance is available to individuals, Groups of farmers/ growers/ consumers, Partnership/ Proprietary firms, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs), Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Cooperative Marketing Federations, Local bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) & Marketing Boards and State Governments.

Besides, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme namely "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion /Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products". Under the scheme, credit linked back-ended subsidy at the rate of 35% of the capital cost of the project in general areas and 50% in

case of North East, hilly & scheduled areas for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storage and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage of capacity above 5000 MT and up to 20000 MT is available.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is also implementing a Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain, Food Processing and Preservation Infrastructure as one of the components of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of reducing post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid at the rate of 35% for general areas and 50% for North East and Himalayan States, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and at the rate of 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10.00 crore per project for setting up of integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility. Standalone cold storages are not covered under the Scheme.

All the above schemes are demand/entrepreneur driven through commercial ventures for which government assistance is in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy/grant-in-aid and is provided based on the proposals received from the States/entrepreneur.

Further, to strengthen agriculture infrastructure in the country, Government has launched Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) of Rs. 1.00 lakh crore. Under AIF, there is provision for collateral free term loan upto Rs. 2.00 crore and interest subvention of 3% on the term loan availed for creation of post-harvest infrastructure including establishment of cold storages.
