

### **National Policy on Handling and Storage of Foodgrains**

5.45 Post harvest losses of foodgrains are a serious problem. A 5 per cent loss would imply loss of 10 million tonnes of foodgrains annually. In order to reduce storage and transit losses at farm and commercial level, and to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in India, a National Policy on Handling and Storage of Foodgrains has been announced this year.

The main thrust of the policy is :—

- (i) declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure,
- (ii) encouragement of mechanical harvesting, cleaning and drying at farm and market level,
- (iii) transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks,
- (iv) construction of chain silos at receipt as well as distribution points,
- (v) encouraging private sector for building storage capacities in which grains procured by Government agencies would be stored on payment of storage charges,
- (vi) encouraging private sector for development of infrastructure for the integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.