

## P R E F A C E

With the introduction of modern technology in the latter half of the sixties, marketing of agricultural produce has assumed special significance in Indian agriculture. It is not enough only to produce more but it is equally important to get surplus produce marketed well. Thus, the Science of marketing is of great importance in the context of modern agriculture. Marketing covers all the business activity involved in the flow of goods and services from the producer to the final consumer. Warehousing is an important chain in the system of marketing. No scheme of marketing can be complete without a reliable and efficient system of warehousing.

The establishment of a well-planned network of warehouses is important both for trade and public distribution of essential commodities. Warehousing is an essential infrastructure for trade, commerce and physical distribution of agricultural goods. Inadequate storage facilities cause much waste and is directly responsible for food shortage which is already acute. It facilitates the obtaining of advances from bankers against the security of warehouse receipts, which will save farmers from the clutches of the moneylenders. It will ensure farmers to get the benefit of remunerative prices by storing their produce till favourable price could be obtained. It helps in getting incentives back to farmers

which is essential for modern agriculture. This will also make available agricultural inputs required for increasing production.

In this way warehousing is very essential infrastructure in agricultural development. It removes many difficulties of marketing. Its importance is much more in India, as it is predominantly agricultural country, where farmers are in the clutches of moneylenders, where price fluctuations of agricultural goods are larger, where farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce and where much more foodgrain is wasted due to improper storage facility. That is why this researcher has attempted to compile information and statistical data about storage facility available for agricultural goods in Maharashtra State.

This study consists of six chapters. The first chapter highlights the importance of warehousing in agricultural marketing. Chapter two gives a historical account of origin and development of warehousing in India and Maharashtra. A brief sketch of the working of the Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation, its storage capacity, utilisation, cost of storage, etc., have been given in chapter three. Chapter four throws light on the co-operative warehousing. Chapter five deals with the storage facility provided by the Agricultural Produce Market Committees in the market yards. Last chapter presents summary of conclusions and suggestions.

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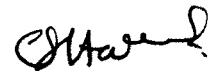
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