

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1224**  
ANSWERED ON- 11.02.2022

**SELLING OF TOP CROPS AT LOWER PRICE**

**1224. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

Will the Minister of **FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly the districts of Ballia and Ghazipur produce Tomato, Onion and Potatoes (TOP) on large scale but they are compelled to sell it every year at price lower than the cost of production;
- (b) if so, the details of thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps Government would take to provide remunerative price to these tomato, onion and potato growing farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the current crop season?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c): Ballia and Ghazipur district of Utttar Pradesh are figuring in the list of major producing districts for onion only as per the Report titled “Horticulture Statistics at a Glance 2018” published by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. These districts are, accordingly, selected as eligible clusters/districts for onion crop as per the existing guidelines for the short term intervention under the Operation Greens scheme.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides transportation /storage subsidy @ 50% for notified fruits & vegetables (including Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops) in selected clusters at the time of glut situation during harvest season under short term intervention. The provision of transportation/storage subsidy helps in evacuation of surplus production of crops from production centres to consumption centres and ensures price stabilization for farmers as well as consumers.

The Ministry is also maintaining Market Intelligence & Early Warning System (MIEWS) Portal to keep watch on current prices of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and, accordingly, low price alerts are issued to concerned States from time to time.

The D/o Agriculture & Famers Welfare implements a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not announced. The scheme objective is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when prices tend to fall below the economic levels/ cost of production. The scheme is, however, implemented at the request of a State/ UT Administration which is ready to bear 50 % of the loss (25 % in case of NER), if any, incurred on its implementation.

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