

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.371
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

RISE IN THE PRICES OF WHEAT

371.SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- a) whether it is a fact that the prices of wheat has increased in the domestic market;
- b) if so, the details thereof, month-wise during the last one year;
- c) whether it is also a fact that the wheat crop yield is low resulting in less storage/procurement during the last season;
- d) if so, the details thereof; and
- e) the steps Government is taking so that this problem may not occur in the future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) &(b): The prices of agricultural produce including wheat are determined by the demand and supply conditions in the market, international prices etc.The all India monthly average wholesale prices of Wheat are given below:

Month	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
Rs/Quintal	2212	2228	2230	2339	2384	2352	2316	2409	2486	2516	2571*	2721*
MSP	1975	1975	1975	1975	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

*Provisional

(c)&(d): Wheat production has declined marginally from 109.59 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 106.84 million tonnes in 2021-22 (4th advance estimates at all India level) and the all India yields of wheat declined in 2021-22 to 3507 Kgs/Hectare from 3521 Kgs/Hectare in 2020-21 due to severe heat wave during March and April, 2022 in major wheat growing States like; Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. The procurement of wheat in Rabi market season 2022-23 at 187.92 Lakh metric tonnes was lower than that of 2021-22 at 433.44 Lakh metric tonnes due to the market price of wheat being higher than the ruling MSP during the period.

(e) The Government is implementing various schemes like; yield index-based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in the country from Kharif 2016 season in order to provide financial support to farmers at the time of losses due to natural calamities from pre-sowing to post-harvest for food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and commercial horticultural crops notified by the concerned State Governments. The scheme not only safeguards against wide spread yield loss due to all non-preventable natural risks affecting yield viz. flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightening, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc but also against farm level yield loss due to localized risks (hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloud burst and natural fire) and post-harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rain and hailstorm etc.

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007-08 to increase the production of crops including wheat through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility & productivity; and enhancing farm level economy. NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 124 districts of 10 states & 2 UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The interventions covered under NFSM-Wheat includes cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, Seed distribution of HYVs/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, processing & post-harvest equipment's, cropping system-based trainings to the farmers etc. The mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmers under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists. The country has a very strong wheat improvement programme under the aegis of Indian council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) which has 30 centers in wheat growing areas across all the States/Central Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes. Since 2014, ICAR has released 127 varieties of wheat and

notified for different agro-climatic condition of the country. Climate resilience is one of the objectives of wheat programme and very potential varieties have been developed. Moreover, at Indian Institute of Agriculture Research (IARI), New Delhi a National Phenomics Facility has been established to identify wheat lines with high temperature and drought tolerance.
