

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1954
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17/03/2023

REDUCING CORPORATE INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES

1954. Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta :

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to reduce the influence that large corporations have on the prices and availability of agricultural products, inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides; and
- (b) the steps taken to ensure that companies do not indulge in setting high prices for their products or controlling the distribution of inputs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) : In order to reduce the influence of large corporations and to provide remunerative price to the farmers, Government implements Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers for their produce of notified oilseeds, pulses and copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). PM-AASHA is an umbrella scheme comprising Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS). These schemes are implemented at the request of the State Governments / Union Territories.

Government extends price support for paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Under this policy, whatever food grains are offered by farmers within the stipulated period & conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the State Government agencies including FCI for Central Pool. Further, different types of nutri-cereals and maize are procured by State Governments itself in consultation with FCI to the extent that the concerned State Government may utilise the same for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as well as Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Cotton and Jute are procured at MSP through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI) respectively.

Besides, Government also extends remunerative prices to the farmers through Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), on the request of concerned State Governments / Union Territories by making procurement of perishable agriculture and horticulture crops through designated agencies directly from farmers as prescribed in the Scheme Guidelines.

Government also reviews the requirement and availability of seeds with the States, State Seeds Corporations including National Seeds Corporation, State Seed Certification Agencies and ICAR prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi and there is sufficient 514.26 lakh quintals of certified/quantity seeds available against the requirement of 464.14 lakh quintals in the country during the year 2022-23. Further, Government has issued guidelines dated 15.11.2019 applicable on companies inducted under NBS scheme for making available notified P&K fertilizers. According to this guidelines, reasonableness of MRP of P&K fertilizers is checked in order to prevent high prices of these P&K fertilizers in the market and to make them available at reasonable rates to farmers.
