

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1955
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17/03/2023

FARMERS NOT GETTING FAIR PRICE FOR VEGETABLES

1955. DR. AMEE YAJNIK :

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not even getting the cost price of the production of vegetables due to which they are forced to throw their produce on the roads, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has any State-wise record of total vegetables thrown away/wasted by the farmers annually due to the non-receipt of cost price; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their crops, along with the number of farmers assisted so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable horticultural / agricultural commodities (including vegetables) in order to provide remunerative price to farmers. The objective of intervention 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 the prices tend to fall below economic levels / cost of production. MIS is implemented at the request of a State Government / Union Territory which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. The extent of total amount of loss to be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central Government and the State Government is restricted to 25 percent of the total procurement value which includes cost of the commodity procured plus permitted overhead expenses. Under the Scheme, in accordance with MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at the fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by the agencies designated by the State Government for a fixed period or till the prices are stabilized above the MIP whichever is earlier. Details of sanction accorded under MIS during the year 2022-23 is at Annexure-I.

Further, Government has set up Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) with an initial corpus of ₹500 crore to tackle inflationary trends of some agri-horticultural commodities viz. onion, potatoes and pulses to protect the interests of consumers. These commodities are procured and stored for regulated release to help moderate the prices. Such market intervention by Government would not only help send the appropriate market signal but also deter speculative/hoarding activities. To begin with, the Fund was to

be used only for market interventions in case of perishable agri-horticultural commodities such as onion and potato which showed extreme volatility of prices. Subsequently, pulses were also covered. Objectives of PSF are (i) to promote direct purchase from farmers /farmers' association at farm gate/Mandi, (ii) to maintain a strategic buffer stock that would discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation and (iii) to protect consumers by supplying such commodities at reasonable prices through calibrated release of stock.

Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme farmers are mobilised into Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for aggregation and economies of scale. Efforts are being made to link FPOs to market by way of direct marketing farmer consumer markets/Apni Mandi and e-markets for better realization of farmers produce. Assistance is also provided for development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure such as cold storages, cold room, packing and grading house, reefer vehicles, primary and wholesale markets, Kisan Mandies, etc. Farmers are made aware of the processing facilities/mega food parks nearby and processable varieties of horticulture crops.

In addition, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a virtual platform integrating physical wholesale mandis/markets of different States/Union Territories (UTs) to facilitate online trading of agricultural commodities through transparent price discovery method to enable farmers to realize better remunerative prices for their produce

Annexure-I

Year	Period	Commodity	State	Market Intervention Price (MIP) (Rs. Per MTs.)	Sanctioned Qty (in MTs.)
2022-23	07.06.2022 to 06.07.2022	Garlic	Rajasthan	29,570	1,07,836
2022-23	07.06.2022 to 06.07.2022	Onion	Rajasthan	7,780	2,56,400
2022-23	27.07.2022 to 25.08.2022	'C' grade Apple	Himachal Pradesh	12,960	1,44,936
2022-23	27.07.2022 to 25.08.2022	Mango	Himachal Pradesh	11,700	1,250
2022-23	10.03.2023 to 08.04.2023	Potato	Uttar Pradesh	6,500	10,00,000
