

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3389**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31/3/2023

**ADVERSE IMPACT OF HEAT WAVE ON CROPS**

3389. SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the high probability of heat wave in food grain producing States and its possible adverse impact on the wheat crop during the coming season;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to maintain adequate stock of rice and millet (bajra) to ensure food security in the country and the details of the procurement schemes formulated for the same; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to control the prices of foodgrains in the near future?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): In the month of February 2023, though the maximum temperature was hovering around 32-33°C in most of the northern plains, it did not impact the wheat grain growth since the crop canopy temperature can be easily modulated by 2-3°C less than the air temperature by irrigation.

For the period from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall has been received over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan due to which the maximum temperatures were near normal or below normal over these parts. In the current scenario, it is too early to predict any damage to the wheat crop due to heat stress.

To ensure enough buffer stock of foodgrain there exists a transparent & uniform policy for procurement of foodgrains at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by Government agencies across the country. As per policy, the offered quantity within the stipulated procurement period & conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, are purchased at MSP by the Government agencies."One Nation, One MSP through DBT" implemented across the country from RMS 2021-22 onwards. The Government of India is encouraging States/Union Territories to procure and distribute millets under Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS). Full support is being extended for supply of millets under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)/Mid-day Meal (MDM)/PM Poshan.

(c): Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, inter-alia, include releases from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding as also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

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