

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2023

MSP FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1449. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- (a) whether Government has any policy proposal to introduce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for fruits and vegetables to ensure profitable income to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has issued any directions to State Governments to formulate MSP for fruits and vegetables to increase the income of farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (d): Each year, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops, on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. The inclusion of crops under MSP framework is dependent on several factors which inter alia include, whether they have relatively large shelf life, are non-perishable, widely grown, items of mass consumption, essential for food security. Agricultural/horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not included under the MSP regime, such as fruits and vegetable, are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The scheme is implemented at the request of a state / UT government with the objective 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 and cost of production.

In addition, Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for holistic growth of the horticulture sector in the country with the objective of encouraging aggregation of farmers into farmer groups like FIGs/FPOs and FPCs; enhancing horticulture production; improving productivity, supporting skill development and creating employment generation opportunities for rural youth in horticulture and post-harvest management, especially in the cold chain sector.

Moreover, Government has adopted and implemented several policies, developmental programmes, schemes and reforms for achieving higher incomes for the farmers, which are as follow:

- i. Supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN of Rs. 6000/- per year in three equal instalments to eligible beneficiaries.
- ii. Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production.
- iii. Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).
- iv. Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- v. Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crores.
- vi. New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations.
- vii. Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops.
- viii. Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO).
- ix. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- x. Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has potential to revolutionize the Indian Agriculture.
- xi. Benefits accruing under Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, Agro-forestry, Restructured Bamboo Mission, implementation of new generation watershed guidelines, etc.
- xii. Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- xiii. Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.
- xiv. Production and availability of quality seeds to farmers.
