

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1465
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15/12/2023

TRANSITION FROM WATER INTENSIVE CROPS

1465. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to ensure transition from water intensive crops to less water intensive crops in the country in order to ensure sustainable agriculture especially in Northern States of Punjab and Haryana;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is looking to provide for mandatory Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement of such crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the proposed measure to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR), in Original Green Revolution States viz., Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc.

Further, Government of India supplements the efforts of state governments to encourage diversified production of crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna) & cotton under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under RKVY-RAFTAAR.

The states can promote crop diversification under RKVY-RAFTAAR with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the respective states.

(d) to (f): Government fixes minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandatory agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned.

As per Guidelines of Department of Food and Public Distribution for procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, States are allowed to procure Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley & Ragi and six minor millets from farmers at MSP under central pool subject to the prior approval of Government of India, in consultation with FCI.

Procurement of pulses and oilseeds is made at MSP as per the Schemes under PM-AASHA scheme of DA&FW. The procurement of Notified Pulses are done under Price support Scheme (PSS) by the Central Nodal Agencies through State designated Agencies during harvesting season. Since 2015 onward the procurement of Pulses is also done at MSP for maintenance of National Buffer stock of Pulses under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF). Cotton and Jute are also procured by Government at MSP through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI), respectively, under the scheme implemented by Ministry of Textiles.
