

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 491
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

SCHEMES TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF HORTICULTURAL CROPS

491 #. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced any scheme to increase the production of horticultural crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the problems related to storage, transportation and providing suitable market to apple farmers in Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) whether there is any arrangement for direct purchase of apples, produced by the farmers of Himachal Pradesh, by Government at a fair price; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented for the holistic development of horticulture in the country. All States/UTs are covered under MIDH. Under MIDH, for promotion of horticulture throughout the country, financial & technical assistance is provided to States/UTs for following major interventions/activities:

- Setting up of nurseries, tissue culture units for production of quality seed and planting material.
- Area expansion i.e. Establishment of new orchards and gardens for fruits, vegetables, and flowers.
- Rejuvenation of unproductive, old, and senile orchards.
- Protected cultivation, i.e. poly-house, green-house, etc, to improve the productivity & grow off season high value vegetables and flowers.

- Organic farming and certification.
- Creation of water resources structures and watershed management.
- Bee-keeping for pollination.
- Horticulture Mechanization.
- Creation 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.

In order to promote creation of Scientific Storage for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs, etc., to reduce post-harvest & handling losses, promote pledge financing, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is implementing “Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)” sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) across the country. Apart from this, to provide the better marketing facility within the State, HP State Agricultural Marketing is also developing marketing infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh through its Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

(d) & (e): Yes, there is arrangement for purchase of “Processing Grade” apple in the State. The Government of India has been implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for various horticultural commodities since 1983-84 on the request of State Government concerned in the event of down fall in prices below economic levels to ensure that the farmers are not forced to make distress sale of their produce.

In the State of Himachal Pradesh, the Market intervention Scheme is being implemented since 1990. At present, this scheme is being implemented for procurement of processing Grade Apple, Mango and Citrus fruits. The purchase is being made through apple procurement centers opened at various apple producing areas of the State. A total of 315 No. of apple procurement centers were opened and 52916 MT apple fruits were procured at the price of Rs.12.00 /kg in the year 2023. The detail of procurement price, total quantity procured and value of the fruit since 2010 to 2023 is enclosed at Annexure.

Annexure

YEAR WISE PROCUREMENT PRICE OF APPLE , QUANTITY PROCURED, VALUE OF PROCURED FRUITS UNDER MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME FROM 2010-2023

Year	Grade	Procurement price/kg	Quantity procured MT	Value of procured fruits in Lakhs	Name of the scheme
2010-11	Processing Grade	5.25	111154	5835.56	--do--
2011-12	Processing Grade	5.25	5664	297.34	--do--
2012-13	Processing Grade	6.00	11822	709.32	--do--
2013-14	Processing Grade	6.50	34229	2224.89	--do--
2014-15	Processing Grade	6.50	13415	871.96	--do--
2015-16	Processing Grade	6.50	36033	2342.14	--do--
2016-17	Processing Grade	6.50	16088.870	1045.78	--do--
2017-18	Processing Grade	7.00	30657.795	2146.05	--do--
2018-19	Processing Grade	7.50	27139.14	2035.4355	--do--
	All grades	20.00 ONLY FOR L & SPITI DISTRICT	110.740	22.14800	Under special case
2019-20	Processing grade	8.00	61117.035	4889.36	MIS
2020-21	Processing grade	8.5	37875.985	3219.45	--do--
2021-22	Processing grade	9.5	73258.36	6959.54	-do-
2022-23	Processing grade	10.50	86142.00	9044.91	-do-
2023-24	Processing grade	12.00	52915.89	6349.90	
