

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1306
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2024

SPECIAL SCHEME TO SUPPORT ONION FARMERS

1306. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced any special scheme in view of the problems being faced by the onion farmers so that they can get fair price;
- (b) whether Government has fixed any compensation or support price to help the farmers at the time of fall in onion prices; and
- (c) concrete steps being taken by Government to encourage onion cultivation and ensure the income of farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to ensure fair prices for farmers cultivating perishable horticultural crops including onion. The MIS is undertaken upon request from State or Union Territory governments when market prices fall by at least 10% compared to the average prices of the previous normal season, preventing farmers from having to sell their produce at a loss. The financial losses incurred are shared 50:50 basis between the central and state governments, with a 75:25 sharing ratio applicable for northeastern states. States can procure up to 25% of their production under the MIS. Additionally, states have the option to make differential payments directly to farmers' accounts instead of engaging in physical procurement.

Further, under MIS for TOP crops (Tomato, Onion, Potato), Government bears the transportation and storage expenses for the operations undertaken by Central Nodal Agencies like NAFED and NCCF from producing states to consuming states which will not only ensure remunerative prices to farmers but also soften the prices of TOP crops for consumers in the market.

(c) The Government implements the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally Sponsored Scheme, for holistic growth of the horticulture sectors including onion cultivation. As part of MIDH, financial assistance is also available at 50% of the maximum cost, which is capped at Rs. 1.75 lakh per unit, for the construction of low-cost onion storage facilities with a capacity of 25 Metric Tonnes each.

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