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

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2435 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21/03/2025

REGULATORY MECHANISM TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF FARMERS BY LARGE CORPORATIONS

2435. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance that small and marginal farmers might be dominated or marginalised by corporate agribusinesses under the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM);

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no robust regulatory mechanisms to prevent the exploitation of farmers by large corporations, and;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is an absence of provisions ensuring Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Farmers in the draft policy?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Agriculture Marketing is a State subject. Different States have established the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) as per local needs to support farmers, including small and marginal farmers.

Every year, Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. Government had increased MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other Commercial crops with a minimum return of 50 percent over all India weighted average cost of production from year 2018-19 onwards. During 2014-15 to 2024-25 (upto February, 2025) Government had procured agricultural produce worth Rs.20.29 lakh crore from farmers. Pradhan Mantri Annadta Aay Sanraksha Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is also being implemented to ensure remunerative prices for farmers, particularly for pulses, oilseeds and copra, through the scheme components of Price Support System (PSS) and Price Deficiency Payment System (PDPS).

In addition, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is portal for online trade & as on 28th February, 2025, 1466 APMCs have been integrated with e-NAM portal. e-NAM platform facilities real time price discovery through online competitive bidding, allowing farmers to get best possible prices for their produce.