

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3878
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04/04/2025

INEFFICIENCIES IN TOP VALUE CHAINS AND FARMER EARNINGS

3878. Dr. Fauzia Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that inefficiencies and fragmentation within the value chains of Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes (TOP) leads to price volatility and post-harvest losses, with farmers receiving only 33-37 per cent of consumer spending, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Working Paper Series report on TOP inflation;
- (b) whether Government plans to introduce reforms to reduce intermediaries and improve farmer earnings; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to integrate real-time data systems and futures trading for TOP commodities to stabilize prices and increase farmers' share of the consumer price?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): RBI working papers present research in progress of staff members of RBI and external Co-authors, if jointly undertaken. They are disseminated to elicit comments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Working Paper titled "Vegetables Inflation in India, Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP)" estimates farmers' share in the consumer rupee to be about 33% for tomatoes, 36% for onions and 37% for potatoes during the survey period December 2022 – January 2023 in the domestic value chain.

Agriculture is a state subject. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare supports States & UTs through different policy measures & schemes to improve farmers income. The Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) is implemented in collaboration with State Agricultural Marketing Boards and Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs). This covers a network of 3918 market nodes, covering 323 commodities. Data on daily commodity arrivals and traded prices in mandis are collected and disseminated through the Agmarknet web portal, which is available the public domain to support farmers with price information. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, provides medium-long term loan facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest market infrastructure including warehousing facility and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Further, Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) also provides support for post harvest management and storage. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) supports remunerative prices to farmers and softens the prices of TOP for consumers.
