

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2258
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025

PROBLEM FACING BY BANANA FARMERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2258. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether serious problems are being faced by banana farmers in Kadapa, Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh due to steep fall in banana prices;
- (b) whether Government is aware that unscheduled heavy rains, hailstorm, gusty winds in March and April, 2025, destroyed banana crop in thousands of acres in above districts;
- (c) whether Ministry is also aware that banana crop is going to ripe and cutting will take place in December, 2025; and
- (d) steps taken by Government so far to protect banana farmers of Andhra Pradesh in general and Kadapa and Anantapur in particular and ensure MSP for banana?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH TAKUR)

- (a): The prices of horticulture commodities including banana are influenced by factors of supply and demand, perishability, timely marketability etc. The average wholesale mandi prices (in Rs/Quintal) of banana in Andhra Pradesh for recent months are given below.

Jan-2025	Feb-2025	Mar-2025	Apr-2025	May-2025	Jun-2025	Jul-2025	Aug-2025	Sep-2025	Oct-2025
2709	3128	3291	3533	3652	3585	3022	3293	2873	2966

Source: Agmarknet

- (b): As per the information received from the Department of Horticulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 4639.80 acres of banana crop has been damaged due to heavy rains, winds and hailstorms in March and April 2025.

- (c): Banana is generally harvested round the year in Andhra Pradesh.

- (d): Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for holistic growth of the horticulture sector including banana. Under MIDH, for area expansion of Banana (sucker), assistance is provided @ 40% of the maximum cost of Rs. 1.10 lakh/ha., for meeting the expenditure on planting material and pest management. Further support is provided for creation of post-harvest management (PHM) infrastructure, which includes packhouses, cold rooms, pre-cooling units, controlled-atmosphere (CA) storages, ripening chambers and reefer transport.

Government has introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize the income of farmers etc. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under the scheme from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is voluntary for the States as well as for farmers.

Banana is not covered under Minimum Support Prices (MSP). Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a component under PM-AASHA, for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including banana, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and the cost of production.

The State Government has reported that they are actively pursuing present situation and taking the following immediate measures to ensure remunerative price to the banana farmers.

(i) State Government has conducted multiple meetings with district administration, local traders and exporters to ensure the procurement of both mother and ratoon crops at reasonable prices.

(ii) The state has organized Buyers and Sellers Meets in North Indian markets, including APMC, Azadpur, Delhi, and interacted with major aggregators/ traders in Haryana to secure market access for AP bananas. As a result, North Indian aggregators have started sourcing the material from Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) The state has informed that, more than 4,000 MTs of Bananas per day are purchased by Traders and Exporters and sent to North Indian markets and Middle East Countries from Kadapa and Ananthapuramu districts. This action has already led to a gradual increase in prices, with prices rising by Rs.4,000/- to Rs.6,000/- per MT in the past week and the price is expected to increase further from the 15th of December onwards with the availability of the high-quality Mother crop.

(iv) Further, the state is educating farmers on cultural practices to be adopted for maintaining the quality of the fruit and providing incentives on Fruit care activities, Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) certification etc.
