



(b) & (c): Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for twenty two (22) commodities viz, Wheat, Paddy, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Barley, Arhar (Tur), Moong, Urad, Gram, Masur, Groundnut, Rapeseed/Mustard, Soybean Sesamum, Sunflower seed, Safflower, Nigerseed, Cotton, Jute, Copra and Fair Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Costs & prices (CACP), including the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments. While recommending price policy, the CACP considers, interlia, a number of important factors which include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level and effect on cost of living etc.

The MSP fixed by the Government for 2016-17 provides adequate returns over all India weighted average paid out costs including family labour has estimated by the CACP. MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria, considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort market.

(d) & (e): The awareness among farmers about agricultural marketing is created through National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), AGMARKNET, Kisan Portal, SMS, Participation in Kisan Melas, exhibitions, electronic & print media.

The Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) scheme on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. The scheme aims to create a unified agri-marketing portal for online trading of agri-produce. 417 markets across 13 States have been integrated with e-NAM by 31 March, 2017. The farmer can sell his produce to a buyer of his choice across different markets and get maximum price of products depending on their quality, hence eliminating the presence of middlemen.

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