

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1412
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2017

REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR ONION

1412. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the recent incidents regarding off-loading onions on road, running bulldozer on onions by the farmers at many places including in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for not getting even the production cost of onion on account of bumper production of onion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is taking initiatives to provide minimum support price/remunerative price for the produce to the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the storage capacity of other agricultural produce including onion in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) & (b): There are reports of protests by farmers in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh on various demands including better prices of agricultural produce. Horticultural produce is highly perishable in nature due to higher moisture content and cannot be stored at ambient temperature for longer period, many of them are also not amenable to be stored in cold storage for sustained period. Therefore, arrival of the produce in very high volumes during the peak harvesting season sometimes depressed Wholesale Prices. Production of onion is estimated at 21.56 million metric tonnes in 2016-17 as compared to 20.93 million metric tonnes in 2015-16.

(c) & (d): Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including onion which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned State/UT Government, which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

(e): For Foodgrains, total storage capacity of 783.17 lakh metric tonnes including covered godowns and Cover and Plinth is available as on 31.05.2017 against the stock of 555.40 lakh metric tonnes. Hence, sufficient storage facilities are available for storage of central pool foodgrains stock. In addition to above, Government is implementing Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme, Central Pool Scheme and Construction of Steel Silos for strengthening food grains storage infrastructure.

Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture which also provides assistance for storage of horticulture through setting up of cold storage and low cost onion storage. For perishable horticulture produce, Government provides credit linked back ended subsidy @35-50% for setting up of cold storage. For establishment of low cost onion storage at farm level of capacity up to 25 metric tonnes, subsidy @ 50% for maximum permissible cost of Rs. 1.75 lakh per unit is available. So far under the scheme, 4392 cold storage with capacity of 19.47 million metric tonnes and 12566 number of onion storage with capacity of 2.48 lakh metric tonnes has been created.
