

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 202
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND JANUARY, 2018

CULTIVATION OF RABI CROPS

*202. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the estimated production and acreage under cultivation of Rabi Crops during the current harvested season (2017-18) as compared to that of the last season, crop and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide adequate incentives to the farmers for sowing Rabi crops and to procure their produce at higher price and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the practice of unplanned sowing of crops is still prevalent in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the production and acreage of crops in the country and discourage the import of agricultural produce?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½â"ãè

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND JANUARY, 2018.

(a): It is early to assess the acreage and production of rabi crops for ensuing rabi season 2017-18 as sowing is still in progress in some parts of the country. As per the release calendar of advance estimates of crop production, the production and acreage of rabi crops are normally released in the month of February.

(b): The decision to increase MSPs is based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While recommending MSPs, CACP takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land and water. CACP also holds consultations with various stakeholders including State governments and farmers' organisations/representatives before finalizing its recommendations.

Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 major agricultural crops viz. Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after obtaining the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.

To ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Rabi Crops for 2017-18. In addition, Government has also announced bonus to incentivize farmers for production of Pulses and Oilseeds. Details of the MSPs of rabi crops fixed by the Government are given at **Annexure-I**.

Besides, the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) has been created to protect farmers from volatility in prices of agricultural products and is operated by Department of Consumer Affairs w.e.f. 1st April, 2016. The fund provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of agricultural commodities for calibrated releases to moderate price volatility, discourages hoarding and unscrupulous speculation. Under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), procurement for central buffer is undertaken at market prices or MSPs, whichever is higher besides supplementation through imports.

In addition to PSF, to protect the interest of the farmers, Government implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the MSP wherein State Agencies play a major role. This scheme is implemented at the request of the State Governments concerned, which agree to exempt the procured commodities from levy of *mandi tax*, assist procurement Agencies in logistic arrangements including gunny bags, provide working capital for State Agencies and creation of revolving fund for PSS operations etc. as required under the Scheme guidelines. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable price with low intermediation costs.

Government also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Support Price on the request of State/UT Governments. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of

bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

(c): Farmer's decision on the choice of crops to be planted depends upon a number of factors and to help them in making proper choices, advisories are issued from time to time and MSPs announced before the sowing season.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare organizes National Conferences on Kharif & Rabi campaign before each crop season with the State Government officials, research scientist and extension functionaries to formulate strategy for cultivation of kharif & rabi crops. Besides, the State-level targets for production of crops are decided before the crop season.

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in technical collaboration with stakeholders from National Agricultural Research Systems including State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and line departments develop contingency plans to cope with contingency situations such as droughts, floods, hail storms, unseasonal rains and heat wave etc. inflicting serious economic losses specially to small and marginal farmers in the country leading to Agricultural distress. State Governments are sensitized about the agricultural contingencies to address these issues in a holistic way for the ultimate benefit of the farming community of the country.

Advisories are issued to the States & farmers to maximize their production using latest technologies of crop production, and to educate farmers, demonstrations and trainings are organized at farmers field under various crop development programmes including National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) and National Mission on Oilseed & Oilpalm (NMOOP).

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA)' implemented in 676 districts of 29 states & 3 UTs of the country grants-in-aid is released to the State Governments for revitalizing the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies to the farmers in different thematic areas to increase agricultural production. The activities under ATMA include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

(d): In order to increase production and acreage of Rabi and Kharif crops in the country, Government of India is implementing through State Governments several Crops Development Schemes/Programmes such as NFSM, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), BGREI, NMOOP, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC) etc. Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm-mechanization, etc.

Further, in order to increase the production of field crops in the country, crop based institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) of Indian

Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) undertake research programmes to develop high yielding varieties/hybrids. As a result of concerted efforts, a total of 907 high yielding varieties/hybrids of field crops were released during 2012-2017 for cultivation in different states and agro-ecologies. Front line demonstrations were organized to demonstrate the new technologies, including IPM and farmers' training programmes, farmers' fairs, farmers' field days, etc. were also organized for awareness generation among the farmers so that they can adopt new varieties and technologies to increase production.

Besides, in order to encourage farmers to enhance production and productivity of crops, Government provides concessional short term crop loans to farmers under the Interest Subvention Scheme. Government has also taken other measures such as increase of import duty and modulating imports and exports. The details of the recent measures taken are at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 202 due for answer on 02.01.2018.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

(According to crop year)

(As on 24.10.2017)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	(#) increase in	2017-18	(#) increase in MSP 2017-18 over 2016-17
							MSP 2016-17		
							over 2015-16		
	RABI CROPS								
1	WHEAT		1400	1450	1525	1625	100(6.6)	1735	110(6.8)
2	GRAM		3100	3175	3500**	4000^	500(14.3)	4400@	400(10)
3	MASUR (LENTIL)		2950	3075	3400**	3950@	550(16.2)	4250*	300(7.6)
4	RAPSEED/MUSTARD		3050	3100	3350	3700*	350(10.4)	4000*	300(8.1)
5	SAFFLOWER		3000	3050	3300	3700*	400(12.1)	4100*	400(10.8)
6	TORIA		3020	3020	3290	3560	270(8.2)	3900*	340 (9.6)

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

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* Including Bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal.

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Including Bonus of Rs. 75 per quintal .

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Including Bonus of Rs. 200 per quintal.

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Including Bonus of Rs. 150 per quintal

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 202 due for answer on 02.01.2018.

Recent measures for modulating Imports and Exports

- Bulk export of groundnut oil, sesame oil, soyabean oil and maize (Corn) oil has been permitted w.e.f. 27.03.2017, removing consumer pack restriction of (upto 5 kg).
- Import duty on Tur (pigeon pea) has been raised from 0 % to 10 % w.e.f. 28.3.2017.
- Quantitative restriction of 2 lakh tons per year on import of Tur (pigeon pea) w.e.f. 5.8.2017 has been imposed.
- Quantitative restriction of 3 lakh tons on import of Moong and Urad per year w.e.f. 05.08.2017 and 21.08.2017 has been imposed respectively.
- Import duty on **wheat** has been raised from 10% to 20% w.e.f. 8.11.2017.
- Exports of all varieties of pulses including organic pulses have been allowed w.e.f. 22nd November, 2017.
- Import duty on yellow peas has been raised from 0% to 50% w.e.f. 8.11.2017.
- Import duty on **soya bean seed** has been raised from 30% to 45% w.e.f. 17.11.2017
- Import duty on Chana and Lentil (Masoor) has been raised from 0% to 30% w.e.f. 21.12.2017.
- Import duties on major edible oils have been raised w.e.f. 17.11.2017 maintaining an appropriate difference between crude and refined oil as given below:
 - ❖ crude palm oil from 15% to 30% and refined palm oil from 25% to 40%,
 - ❖ crude sunflower oil from 12.5% to 25% and refined sunflower oil from 20% to 35%,
 - ❖ crude soya bean oil from 17.5% to 30% and refined soya bean oil from 20% to 35%,
 - ❖ crude rapeseed oil including canola oil (Low erucic and rapeseed oil), mustard oil and colza oil from 12.5% to 25% and on refined rapeseed oil including canola oil (Low erucic acid and rapeseed oil), mustard oil and colza oil from 20% to 35% w.e.f. 17.11.2017.
- Export of all varieties of pulses including organic **pulses** has been made “free” without any quantitative restriction w.e.f. 22.11.2017.