

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2490
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND JANUARY, 2018

PROTECTION OF FARMERS FROM EXPLOITATION

2490. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ऋदŠããÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ããããè be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating formulation of a scheme in future for protecting the farmers from exploitation by the middlemen and capitalists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons due to which the farmers are not getting the minimum support price fixed by the Government; and
- (d) whether the Government is intent on taking any concrete initiative for the farmers in future, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

ऋदŠããÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ããããÈ½ã ½ããã Æã½ã ½ããããè (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): The Government has circulated a new model Act "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" in April, 2017 for its adoption by States/UTs. The model Act provides for direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, which aims to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer for facilitating better remunerative prices for farmers' produce. The Government is also implementing a scheme called National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) for transparent price discovery with competitive and remunerative price for the farmers' produce through online bidding system, which will help protect the farmers from exploitation by the middlemen and capitalists.

(c): Minimum Support Price (MSP) is ensured to the farmers for procurement of fair and average quality produce from them by the Government agencies under Minimum Price Support Scheme. However, the trading in the wholesale agriculture produce market is different as the price is determined by the demand and supply forces based on the quality of the produce and may vary from MSP.

(d): The Government is taking following initiatives for the farmers:

(i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and reduce cost of inputs and improve soil fertility.

(ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated.

(iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.

(iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.

(v) The National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) envisages providing e-marketing platform at national level for transparency in bidding and better price discovery to enable farmers in getting remunerative prices for their produce.

(vi) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is available to the farmers at low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

(vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.

(viii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) enables State Governments to implement the scheme as per their requirement in areas which requires focused attention for increasing production and productivity. The States have been provided flexibility and autonomy for selection, planning approval and execution of projects/programs under the scheme as per their need, priorities and agro-climate requirements.

(ix) Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), a Centrally Sponsored scheme, assistance is provided to farmers for distribution of Seeds (HYVs/Hybrids), production of seeds (only in pulses), INM and IPM techniques, resource conservation technologies/tools/farm mechanization, efficient water application tools, cropping system based trainings to farmers and also assistance for value addition.

(x) National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) programme, is being implemented since 2014-15 with the objective of increasing production and productivity of oilseeds for meeting the domestic requirement of vegetable oil. The various interventions of this mission are implemented through the State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture.

(xi) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetable, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. The Mission subsumes national Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH.

The other steps taken by the Government for farmers are as under:

(i) The Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017, which was circulated on 24.04.2017 for adoption by the States through legislation of their respective Acts. The Act provides the options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards including private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.

(ii) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. 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.
