

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1672
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MARCH, 2018

PROCUREMENT OF POTATOES

1672. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that potatoes are purchased by the traders from farmers at the rate of Rs. 210 to 400 per quintal and are sold at the rate of Rs. 1200 to 1500 per quintal and some times the price goes up to Rs. 2000 to 2500 per quintal in the retail market which causes heavy losses to farmers as well as to retail consumers;
- (b) a whether in view of the same, the Government has prepared/propose to prepare any action plan to provide benefits to farmers as well as to the retail buyers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): There are some reports that in the peak arrival period of potatoes, there is a glut in some markets. To protect the growers 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 i.e., cost of production, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of potato and other horticultural/agricultural commodities which are perishable in nature and for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not declared. This scheme is implemented at the request of a State / UT Govt. which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. During the current crop season, a proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for procurement of potato under MIS. Accordingly, Government has approved the proposal of the State Govt.

Further, Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 for adoption by the States by legislation of their respective Acts which provides the farmers options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards. The provisions include setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards 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.
