

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.575**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018  
**CREATION OF RESERVE STOCK OF VEGETABLES**

575. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for creation of reserve stock of vegetables to control the market prices during emergency crisis, if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(b) the other steps taken by the Government to fulfil the demand and prevent shortage of vegetables and consequent hike in the selling prices thereof during the current year?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): The Government has created a Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) for appropriate market intervention to regulate price volatility of agri-horticulture commodities especially onion, potato and pulses by way of procurement by State/Union Territory Government and Central agencies/ cooperative organizations, maintenance of buffer stocks and regulated release into the market.

Under PSF scheme, the Government has procured so far 6011 MT of onions during 2015-16, 17747 MT of onions during 2016-17 and 3954 MT of onion during 2017-18 from the producing regions at the prevailing mandi prices for supply to the consuming areas. Also, 2000 MT of onions was imported through MMTC during 2015-16 to control onion prices.

Other steps taken by the Government to fulfill the demand and prevent shortage of vegetables and consequent hike in the selling prices thereof during the current year are as under:-

- (i) Production of vegetables is promoted under various schemes such as "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)" and "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)" of Government of India to fulfill the demand.
- (ii) Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 850 per MT imposed on onions to restrict export and improve domestic availability. MEP was subsequently brought down to USD 700 MT with improved availability of onion and consequent reduction in prices.
- (iii) Department of Consumer Affairs has enabled States to impose stock limit on onions till 31.12.2017 and further extended upto 31.03.2018. Producing States were advised to take action against hoarders/traders engaging in illegal practices and ensure adequate availability of onions in the market at reasonable prices to the consumers.
- (iv) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) were directed to procure onions from producing regions for supply to the consuming areas.

\*\*\*\*\*