

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.460
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

PLIGHT OF POTATO FARMERS

460. SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the potato farmers, especially those in Punjab, have been hit by another glut and price decline this year;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers and stabilise the prices; and
- (d) whether these measures have led to immediate relief for the farmers, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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 prices of agricultural produce including potato are determined by supply and demand conditions in the market on a day-to-day basis. As per 1st Advance Estimates 2018-19, production of potato is set to marginally decline over the previous year. A Statement showing production and prices of potato in Punjab and all India average monthly wholesale price of potato is given at Annexure.

Government of Punjab has taken the following interventions like reduction in market fee and rural development fee, reduction in commission of Aarhtiyas, focus on increasing consumption through inclusion in mid day meal and jails etc. and has taken up issues like opening of land routes to wagha border for supply of potatoes to Pakistan thus helping farmers to get remunerative price for their produce.

(c) & (d): Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities 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 and cost of production. The scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT government which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. The extent of total amount of loss to be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Governments.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 460 due for answer on 05.02.2019

Monthly average wholesale price and Production of Potato

Average wholesale prices (Rs. Per Quintal)

	2018												2019
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
Punjab	318	404	490	631	693	758	831	800	817	850	789	737	460
All India Average	833	818	1026	1314	1455	1519	1604	1502	1578	2032	1387	1072	925

Production (000 tonnes)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (1st AE)
Punjab	2423.00	2571.04 (6.11)	2716.33 (5.65)
All India	48604.57	51310.01 (5.57)	52588.98 (2.49)

The figures shown in the brackets are the percentage change over previous year.
