

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3187
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH AUGUST, 2023

MSP FOR CASH CROPS

3187. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering the request for including Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Cardamom and Pepper under Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSP), if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Kerala for including Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Cardamom and Pepper under MSP and if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has analysed the agrarian crisis in the State of Kerala due to declining price of those commodities and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to intervene in the crisis of farmers who totally depend on agricultural produce for their livelihood and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive package for survival of farmers engaged in farming of these items; and
- (f) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) & views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned.

Time to time, suggestions/representations from State Governments including Kerala are received regarding the coverage of crops under MSP. However, inclusion of crops under MSP framework is dependent on several factors which include relatively large shelf life, non- perishable, widely grown, item of mass consumption, essential for food security, among others.

Government has been promoting crops such as Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Cardamom and Pepper, through various schemes and initiatives. National Horticulture Mission promotes holistic growth of the horticulture sector, including the cultivation of plantation crops like fruits, spices, and medicinal plants. The mission provides financial assistance to farmers for the establishment of orchards and plantations, as well as for improving production, post-harvest handling, and marketing of horticulture crops. Besides, statutory boards, such as Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board under administrative control of Ministry of Commerce and Industry are responsible for the production, development, marketing and overall competitiveness of these commodities. At present, there is no proposal to bring Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Cardamom and Pepper under MSP arrangement.

(c) to (f): As per Gross State Value Added (GSVA) by Economic Activity at Constant Price (2011-12) released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sector in Kerala increased from ₹ 42,333 crores in 2020-21 to ₹ 44,299 crores in 2021-22, reflecting a growth of 4.6 percent.

Government of India, is committed to the welfare of farmers. It is implementing various centre sector and centrally sponsored schemes covering entire spectrum of agriculture to address various aspects of agriculture and benefit the farmers. These, inter alia, include:

- i. Supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN of Rs. 6000/- per year in three equal instalments to eligible beneficiaries.
- ii. Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production.

- iii. Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).
- iv. Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- v. Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crores.
- vi. New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations.
- vii. Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops.
- viii. Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO).
- ix. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- x. Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture.
- xi. Benefits accruing under Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, Agro-forestry, Restructured Bamboo Mission, implementation of new generation watershed guidelines, etc.
- xii. Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- xiii. Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.
