

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3662
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2019

CULTIVATION OF MAIZE IN PUNJAB

3662. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is aware that on account of fast depletion of water level in Punjab due to paddy cultivation, the State Government of Punjab is encouraging the cultivation of maize as a substitute of paddy and thereby maize is being grown in 1,60,000 hectares this year which will produce maize around six lakh metric tonnes grains yearly;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry realizes that for the procurement of maize in Punjab, MSP for maize should be implemented like it is for the paddy and wheat;
- (c) if so, whether the implementation of MSP for procurement of maize would be started in Punjab; and
- (d) if so, whether the Ministry will oblige to start it from the next fiscal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Government of India is implementing national Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Maize in 237 districts of 25 States and 2 Union Territories including three districts of Punjab Namely Hoshiarpur, Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (SBS Nagar) and Ropar. Under NFSM-Maize programme, assistance is being provided to the farmers for demonstrations and seed distribution for increasing the production through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

Besides, Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) is being implemented in Original Green Revolution states viz, Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as a sub-scheme of Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) since 2013-14 to divert the area of water guzzling paddy crop to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals including maize, nutri-cereals, cotton and agro-forestry. Under the scheme, scientific crop production technologies

are being promoted at farmers' field through organization of alternate crop demonstrations and training of farmers. Under CDP, assistance is being provided on farm implements including maize dryer, maize sheller, maize thresher and efficient water application tools/technologies etc. which can support diversification of paddy crop to alternate crops.

The State Government of Punjab has informed that they are encouraging the farmers for cultivation of maize in place of paddy to save underground water.

(b) to (d): Department of Food and Public Distribution has a policy for procurement of coarse grains including maize wherein states are allowed to procure these commodities from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under central pool subject to the prior approval of Government of India on detailed procurement Plan prepared by state governments in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI).

State Government of Punjab informed that the procurement of Maize should be implemented like paddy and wheat in the Punjab State. However, Department of Food and Public Distribution is willing to support state Government of Punjab in this regard on receipt of proposal.
