

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.135
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021

LEGISLATIVE SAFEGUARDS FOR FARMERS

135. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to promulgate a bill to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farm produce, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to announce MSP for new crops on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that farmers are protesting to ensure MSP of agricultural produce and 60 farmers have died since the protests began against the new farm laws;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to conduct discussions with farmers regarding the reforms in the agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the position of the Government on the M.S. Swaminathan Committee recommendation that MSP should be at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production and whether the Government will implement the same, if so, the action taken thereon;
- (f) whether the Government is aware of exploitative and arbitrary refusal from honouring agreements under contract farming in the country, if so, whether the Government intends to promulgate legislative safeguards to protect the interest of farmers under contract farming; and
- (g) whether India is under any commitment to trade negotiations or international treaty whereby it is not allowed to subsidize agriculture, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 major agricultural commodities each year in both the crop seasons after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

(c): Some of the farmers' Unions and their members have been agitating against newly enacted Farm laws.

(d): Yes sir. So far, 11 rounds of meetings have been held between the Government and agitating farmers' unions to resolve the issues.

e): Government has since budget 2018-19, been announcing MSP at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.

(f): Adequate legislative safeguards have been provided for. The Act provides for a detailed and channelized dispute resolution mechanism. Under the Act, if a dispute arises during the period of agreement, the aggrieved party shall invoke the formation of conciliation board as per terms of the agreement who shall mediate and attempt resolution within 30 days of such reference. If the dispute failed to get resolved within 30 days, either party may file a complaint with the sub-Divisional Authority. If the decision of the sub-Division Authority is not acceptable either by either of the parties, they may file an appeal to the Appellate Authority.

(g): No, Sir. The support to agriculture sector is provided by Government of India as per its own policy. In case, the other country raise dispute, then suitable defense is undertaken.
