

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd AUGUST, 2021

POTATO CULTIVATION

2379. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

- (a) whether potato cultivators have been affected by the large quantity of potato production and fall in prices this year;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers and stabilize the prices;
- (d) whether the farmers received immediate relief by these measures;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Production of Potato increased from 485.62 Lakh ton (2019-20) to 536.8 Lakh ton (2020-21). Potato is mostly stored in cold storages and released to market as per the demand. The prices of potato normally depends on the market forces of demand and supply. The prices usually drops during the harvest season and gradually improves during lean season. The mandi prices of potato was lower as compared to last year because of enhanced production.

(c) to (f): Steps taken by government to control the prices of fruits and vegetables (including potato) are as follows:

- The Govt. is implementing the scheme called electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) to lower transaction costs.
- Farmers are mobilized into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for aggregation and economies of scale. Efforts are being made to link FPOs to market by way of direct marketing farmer consumer markets/ Apni Mandi and e-markets.
- Assistance is provided for development of post harvest management and marketing

infrastructure such as cold storages, ripening chamber, pack houses, reefer vehicles, primary and wholesale markets, Kisan Mandies, etc.

- The Govt. is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support Scheme.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing a new Central Sector Scheme- "Operation Greens" for the integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain with the objective of enhancing value realization of TOP farmers; Price stabilization for producers and consumers; reduction in post-harvest losses; Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain by creating firm linkages with production clusters.
