

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2507
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2024

MSP SCHEME IN KERALA

2507. 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 proposes to consider the request from the State of Kerala to initiate action to overcome the crisis of cardamom, pepper, rubber and tea farmers in Kerala, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government initiate action for including cardamom pepper, rubber and tea under the MSP scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government conducted study regarding the difficulties of cardamom, pepper, rubber and tea farmers in Kerala due to decline in price, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has fixed criteria for including agricultural products in the list of MSP scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Union Government examined letter from the Government of Kerala in this regard, if so, the details of action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): 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, etc. 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.
