

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 513**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026

**DISTRESS SALE OF MANGOES BY TRIBAL FARMERS**

513. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that thousands of tribal mango farmers of Kashipur block in Rayagada district, Odisha are facing severe distress due to the absence of cold storage, lack of mandi procurement, unaffordable fertilisers and total absence of processing units, forcing them into distress sale every harvest season;
- (b) whether it is a fact that, in the absence of institutional procurement, private traders and middlemen are buying mangoes at exploitative prices, depriving tribal farmers of fair income despite rising market prices elsewhere, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of cold storages, regulated mandis, FPOs, price support schemes and mango processing units sanctioned or operational in Rayagada district and Kashipur block during the last five years; and
- (d) the time-bound action plan of the Government to establish cold storage, ensure mandi-based procurement, promote processing and guarantee remunerative prices so that tribal mango farmers are protected from distress sale and exploitation?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): No such reports have been received by the Government of India from the State Government of Odisha in this regard. However, the State Government of Odisha has reported that the Government is aware of the specific logistical and seasonal challenges faced by tribal mango farmers in the Kashipur block of Rayagada.

- **Seasonal Price Compression:** Unlike early-harvest districts such as Dhenkanal and Angul, which capture premium market prices, Rayagada's mango harvest occurs later in the season. This often coincides with market saturation and the onset of early rainfall.

- **Quality Impacts:** Late-season harvest along with early rainfall frequently results in "black spots"/blemishes on the fruit, which diminishes the aesthetic quality required for high-end export markets and lowers the bargaining power of farmers against private traders.
- **Intervention:** To mitigate these risks, the Government is focusing on strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to improve post-harvest handling and collective bargaining. Currently, there are 70 registered FPOs in Rayagada district with 5 FPOs in Kashipur block.

(c): As per the information received from the State Government of Odisha, during the last five years, 2 cold storages with a total capacity of 5,600 MT, 7 solar-based cold rooms, and one Hot Water Treatment facility along-with two Regulated Market Committees have been established in Rayagada and Gunupur Blocks.

(d): To avoid distress sale of horticultural crops, the Government of India, through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), provides financial assistance to all States/UTs for development of post-harvest management infrastructure, processing and value addition facilities, including in tribal and backward areas, based on proposals received from the States/UTs as per their approved Annual Action Plan (AAP). The scheme is demand/entrepreneur driven.

In addition to provide remunerative price to the farmers, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a component under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels. The scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT Government, which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Further, Government has introduced a new component of Price Differential Payment (PDP) under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) from 2024-25 season for direct payment of the price difference between the Market Intervention Price (MIP) and the selling price to the farmers of perishable crops. States/UTs have an option to choose either to do physical procurement of the crop or to make the differential payment between the MIP & Sale Price to the farmers.

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approves procurement of Mangoes at Market Intervention Price (MIP) under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on request of States/UTs when the market prices fall below the MIP.

\*\*\*\*\*