

covers the C2 cost of production in all the major rapeseed/mustard producing states.

The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices for major agricultural commodities. The MSPs are uniform throughout the country. Since MSPs do not necessarily exceed the weighted average C2 cost in respect of all crops/States, the price policy seeks to ensure that the A2+FL cost is covered by MSP in high cost/less endowed States. The C2 cost of production projected by the CACP for major States for 2004-05 ranges from Rs. 487 to Rs. 673 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1060 to Rs. 1502 per quintal for rapeseed/mustard. The weighted average C2 cost of production works out to Rs. 516 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1165 per quintal for rapeseed/mustard.

(c) and (d) At present the Government does not have any proposal to revise the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Rabi Crops of 2004-05 Season to be Marketed in 2005-06, which have been announced on 3rd November, 2004. The MSP for Wheat for 2004-05 is Rs. 640 per quintal, which is well above the weighted average C2 cost of production of Rs. 516 per quintal in the case of rapeseed/mustard, the MSP for 2004-05 is Rs. 1700 per quintal compared to the weighted average C2 cost of Rs. 1165 per quintal.

Making NAIS more farmer friendly

869. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1027 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government plan to make National Agriculture Insurance Scheme more farmer friendly has been materialized;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be announced;

(c) whether the proposed improvement would offer involvement and upfront subsidy;

(d) whether, under order of PM a joint study group of Agriculture and Finance Ministry has been set up; and

(e) if so, the details of recommendations and other suggestions made by this group and the step being considered to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) to (e) Budget announcement for 2004-05 of the Union Government provides for re-designing of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) so as to make the scheme more attractive to the farmers. A Joint Group has been set up to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The terms of reference of the Group *inter alia* include an assessment of up-front subsidy, if any, to be paid by the Government. The Group is yet to submit its report.

Central Law on Cow Slaughter

†870. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 585 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2003 and state:

(a) by when Government will bring the Central law to ban the slaughtering of cows in view of strong respect and keeping the sentiments of people of country towards "Gomata", and

(b) the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) Most States in the country have legislation banning cow slaughter as it is a State Subject.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi