

National Horticulture Board under the scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" provides credit linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to the eligible organizations for creation/modernization/expansion of cold storage/CA storage @ 40% of the capital project cost in general areas and 55% in case of Hilly & scheduled areas for a maximum storage capacity of 5000 MT per project. The board has provided subsidy of Rs.64307.58 lakh for establishment of 2316 no. of cold storages in various states with capacity of 9721791 MT. since 1999-2000.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are not covered under Price Support Scheme and are generally perishable in nature. The purpose of implementation of MIS is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sales in the event of a bumper crop when there is glut in the market, causing prices to fall below economic levels/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50.

Use of Endosulfan

1737. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has felt the need for an urgent ban on highly dangerous pesticide viz. Endosulfan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ban Endosulfan immediately keeping in view death of more than 500 people so far and more than 4000 people still suffering from health ailments due to exposure to it in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) Use of Endosulfan in the country has been reviewed by various Committees viz. Dr. S.N. Banerjee Committee in 1991, Dr. R.B. Singh Committee in 1999, Dr. O.P. Dubey Committee in 2003 and Dr. CD. Mayee Committee in 2004. These committees recommended its continued use in the country. Based on these reviews, use of Endosulfan is continued in the country except in Kerala where its use has been kept on hold vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 1874 (E) dated 31.10.2006.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Director General, ICMR to examine the report by National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad on "Health Effects of Endosulfan in Kasargod district" submitted to National Human Rights Commission in 2002. A fresh view on Endosulfan is possible based on inputs from the Committee constituted by ICMR.

Rise in agricultural input cost

1738. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge difference between the increase in the cost of inputs used in farming and increase in the price of agricultural produce over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to make changes in the criteria and consider farmer's representation while fixing MSP; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Crop-wise details of per cent increase in Cost and Minimum Support Price during the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the Statements I, II and III. (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The minimum support prices (MSP) are announced by the Government of India with a view to ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission in undertaking the task of recommending Minimum Support Price for several crops is guided by the terms of reference given to it by the Government of India. From time to time the terms of reference of the Commission have been modified and further expanded to keep pace with the change in agricultural scenario in the country.

The Commission in its composition comprises representation from farming community. The non-official members representing the farming community contributes to the process of determining MSP, for several crops in interaction with the farmers in the meetings the commission holds with different stakeholders including the farmers.