

MSP of paddy

626. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has announced an increase of 8 per cent in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy for the year 2010-11;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that farmers in the country are not satisfied with this meagre increase as the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) had recommended nearly 16 per cent hike to offset the rising input costs of farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of common variety of paddy for 2011-12 has been raised by Rs. 80 per quintal as per the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). In addition, CACP had recommended that if exports remain banned and levy is not reduced, Government should give a bonus of Rs. 80 per quintal on top of the recommended MSP.

Representations have been received from various organizations regarding MSP for paddy.

(c) The levy on rice is declared by the State Governments according to requirements under various welfare schemes. The Government has recently allowed export of one million tonne of non-basmati rice.

While fixing the MSP, the Government has to strike a balance between the interest of the farmers and the consumers. The MSP for common variety of paddy for 2011-12 at Rs. 1080 per quintal provides adequate margin over the CACP's projected all-India weighted average cost of production of Rs. 888 per quintal.

Slow agricultural growth

627. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether agricultural growth is lagging behind the target fixed due to inadequate investments in the farms infrastructure development sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the detail of steps taken or proposed to be taken for increasing the farm growth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As against the growth target of 4% in the agriculture and allied sector fixed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the average annual growth during the first four years of the Plan Period *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2010-11 has been 3.2%. This is mainly due to severe drought conditions in most parts of the country during 2009-10 and drought/deficient rainfall in some States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, East Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in 2010-11. However low level of investment in Agriculture Sector is also one of the underlying factors for slow growth.

(c) Through the conscious efforts of the Government, the investment in Agriculture and Allied sectors as a percentage of agriculture sector Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 13.5 per cent in 2004-05 to 20.3 per cent in 2009-10 at constant prices. Annual plan allocation for the Agriculture Sector (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) has increased from Rs 7058.50 crore in 2007-08 (Actual) to Rs. 17122.87 crore in 2011-12 (BE). Further the flow of agricultural credit has been considerably increased and is targeted at Rs. 4.75 lakh crore in 2011-12. The minimum support prices of crops have been significantly increased. Several schemes including Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are being implemented with a view to increase public investment in Agriculture and Allied sector, to increase farm growth rate in the country.

Negligence in micro-irrigation

628. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eleventh Plan document provides that while sanctioning new irrigation projects, it would be made obligatory for project authorities to implement micro irrigation in at least 10 per cent of command area;

(b) how far this has been followed;

(c) whether the Task Force on Micro Irrigation had assessed a potential of 69 mha. (27 mha. under drip and 42 mha. under sprinkler) to be achieved under micro-irrigation;

(d) whether the target for Eleventh Plan period under micro-irrigation was 28 lakh ha., but so far only about 1.7 mha. has been covered; and

(e) whether above statistics show gross neglect of micro-irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Eleventh Plan document has not made it obligatory for the project authorities to implement micro irrigation in at least 10 per cent of command area.