

Low selling price of Saffron

1408. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any memorandum from the Saffron Growers and Dealers Association, Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details of steps Government is planning to take regarding their dismay of low selling price of Saffron; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check import of Saffron from Iran?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) Yes, Madam. The Government has received a memorandum from Saffron Growers and Dealers Association, Pampore, Kashmir.

(b) The average domestic price of saffron had showed an increasing trend from 2006-07 to 2009-10, but the prices decreased during 2010-11 following the international trend during this period which is evident from the table below :-

Year	Average Price (Rs./Kg.)	Avg. International Price (Rs./Kg.)
2006-07	43883	39244
2007-08	112315	83536
2008-09	192945	140726
2009-10	270162	247549
2010-11	146517	147478

However, for the benefit of saffron growers, Government of India sanctioned a "National Mission on Saffron- Economic revival of J&K Saffron" to be implemented during 2010-2014 with a total cost of Rs.372.18 crore. This Mission mainly deals with improvement of production and productivity, infrastructure development, enhancing research and extension capabilities, transfer of technology, quality testing and marketing, etc. of domestic saffron.

(c) Saffron is mainly imported from Iran followed by Spain. The import duty of saffron is 30% of FOB value. However, import of saffron has drastically reduced from 3880 kg during 2005-06 to 250 kg during 2009-10.

Investment in agriculture sector

†1409. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present level of investment in agriculture sector is inadequate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any scheme has been considered for Government/Private investment in agriculture sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.