

Remunerative price for fruits and vegetables

†1251.SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting remunerative price of their produce as Government has no control over selling-purchasing of fruits and vegetables, while consumers are purchasing these at higher cost and only middlemen are taking benefits thereof;

(b) whether Government is formulating any concrete policy by considering this situation, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to fix minimum support price for vegetables and fruits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Prices of fruits and vegetables by and large are governed by the market forces of demand and supply. In addition to this, it also depends on prevailing weather conditions, cost of transportation, storage and rising demand due to increasing incomes, urbanisation, etc. However, to provide remunerative returns to the farmers and to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) provides assistance to the farmers under National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). This includes assistance for cultivation, establishment of cold storages, setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies. National Horticulture Board is also implementing various schemes such as "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management of Horticulture Crops", "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce", "Market Information Service Scheme for Horticulture Crops", etc. Further, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a new programme on Vegetable initiative for Urban Cluster (VIUC), during 2011-12, under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The scheme is being implemented in one city each of 29 States having a population of one million or capital city.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Fruits and vegetables being perishable commodity, the DAC does not have any proposal to fix its minimum support price. However, the DAC is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on request of State/ UT Governments for procurement of various horticultural commodities. 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 equally between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). The details of MIS implemented during the year 2010-11 are as under :

Sl. No.	State	Commodity	MIP (Rs. per MT)	Qty. (in MTs.)
1.	Uttar Pradesh (23-3-2010 to 30-4-2010)	Potato	3,000	1,00,000
2.	West Bengal	Potato	3,000	9,00,000
3.	Himachal Pradesh (1-9-2010 to 31-10-2010)	Apples	5,150	61,000
4.	Uttar Pradesh (12-3-2011 to 11-4-2011)	Potato	3,050	1,00,000
5.	Karnataka	Areca nut (White)	75,900	3,000
6.	Karnataka	Areca nut (Red)	97,900	4,000
7.	Himachal Pradesh (15-8-2011 to 15-10-2011)	Apples	5,250	50,600

Geographical demarcation of agriculture produce

†1252. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to promote the export of agricultural produce, there is an organization of Central Government which is engaged in the registration work of geographical demarcation relating to agricultural produce and allied products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.