

(b) Among other measures, reducing bank's interest rate, especially for purchase of dairy animals, may contribute to a growth in milk production.

(c) This Department is implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely, Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development wherein back ended subsidy of 25% (33.33% for SC/ST beneficiaries) is provided to the beneficiaries for loans availed under the scheme.

MSP of wheat

1888. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed a hike of Rs.115 per quintal over last year in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat to Rs.1285 per quintal to cover rising input cost and encourage farmers to increase acreage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to recommend Rs.1285 per quintal as MSP for wheat for the market year 2012-13 starting April, 1st; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat at Rs.1285 per quintal for the crop of 2011-12 to be marketed in 2012-13 increasing by Rs.165 per quintal over its last years MSP of Rs.1120 per quintal.

Rise in prices of fruits and vegetables

1889. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of fruits and vegetables have increased manifold during last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring down the prices of fruits and vegetables, so as to reduce the burden on common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base year 2004-05 = 100) for fruits and vegetables for the last three years is as follows: