

(ii) To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk-processing sector.

(d) NDPI will be implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala. Coverage of NDP-I will, however, be across the country in terms of benefits accruing from the scheme.

### Crop insurance

†1901. SHRI ASHKALI TAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the State of Rajasthan under crop insurance in 2010-11;

(b) whether Government proposes to bring all the crops within the ambit of crop insurance to give relief to farmers; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Presently, four crop insurance schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Pilot Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) are implemented to compensate the losses in crops of the farmers in the country. All schemes are demand driven and therefore, no State-wise funds are allocated. During 2010-11, Rs. 84256.37 lakh were utilized as Government of India's share for contribution in farmers' premium and settlement of claims in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) All food and Oilseed crops, annual commercial/horticultural crops and some perennial horticultural crops are already covered under crop insurance schemes. As per provisions of the scheme, the implementing States/UTs are free to notify any crop subject to the capacity of the State to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and availability of adequate past yield/weather data.

### Controlling inflation in food articles

1902. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to increase agricultural production and productivity to control inflation in food articles on a sustainable basis;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there has been contribution from State Governments in controlling inflation in food articles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) To increase production and productivity of various crops, a number of Agriculture Development Schemes and Programmes are implemented through State Government in the country like, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Areas, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oil Palm (ISOPOM), Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton and Jute, Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals/ Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

These Schemes and Programmes boost the Crop Production levels to meet the demand of foodgrains in the country and have cooling effect on food prices.

Besides, several fiscal and administrative measures have also been taken by the Government to successfully contain price rise of essential commodities. Some of these measures are:

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat and onion, pulses, edible oils (crude) and to 7.5% for refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils;
- (ii) Permitted Sugar mills to import duty-free raw sugar under Open General License (O.G.L.). Later this facility was extended to private trade on job basis; and
- (iii) Permitted STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED to import duty-free white/refined sugar initially with a cap of 1 million tonnes. Later duty-free import was also allowed by other Central/State Government Agencies and private trade without any cap on the quantity;
- (iv) Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum);
- (v) Imposed ban on export of non-basmati rice and wheat for short period of time;
- (vi) Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, paddy and rice;

- (vii) Ban on export of onion was imposed for short period of time whenever required. Exports of Onion were calibrated through the mechanism of Minimum Export Prices (MEP) of onion;
- (viii) Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002;
- (ix) Suspension of Futures trading in rice, urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission continues;
- (x) A quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice to State/ UT Governments for distribution to retail consumers for the period of October, 2011 to September, 2012 under OMSS etc.
- (xi) An additional adhoc allocation of 123.68 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat have been made so far comprising BPL/APL families and poorest/backward districts in 27 States.
- (xii) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month up to 31.3.2012.
- (xiii) Extended the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month up to 30.9.2012.

#### **MSP for paddy, soyabean and cotton**

1903. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has ignored the long pending demand of farmers to increase the MSP for paddy, soyabean and cotton which has remained unchanged for 2011-12 season;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to provide some relief to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices of cotton, paddy and soyabean of 2011-12 season have been increased over the MSPs of 2010-11 season. The MSPs of these crops for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are given below :