

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	2011-12*	2012-13	%age increase over 2011-12
Arhar (Tur)	3200	3850	20.3
Moong	3500	4400	25.7
Urad	3300	4300	30.3

*Additional incentive at the rate of Rs. 500 per quintal was payable during the harvest/arrival period of two months.

Government implements a number of schemes to boost the production of pulses in the country which include, *inter-alia*, National Food Security Mission — Pulses (NFSM-Pulses), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme, Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses villages in Rainfed Areas, etc.

Policy for development of agriculture sector

†*119. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that people are losing interest in making agriculture a better option for their livelihood, thereby affecting agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any policy for development of agriculture sector and making cultivation a better option for livelihood; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The total number of cultivators and agricultural labourers has been increasing since 1951. Similarly, the total cropped area has also been increasing. Further, private investment in agriculture and allied sector (at 2004-05 prices) has also increased from Rs. 59,909 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1,09,742 crore in 2009-10. The agriculture sector consequently has grown at an average of 3.3% per annum in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as compared to 2.3% per annum during the Tenth Plan. Foodgrain production has also increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 257.44 million tonnes in 2011-12.

Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes to reinvigorate the agriculture sector and has initiated measures including reorientation of agriculture policy with the objective of improving productivity, profitability and economic viability of farming as also creating employment opportunities in rural non-farm sector. Some of the important initiatives taken by Government are launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(NHM) etc. In addition, Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops have also been increased substantially in recent years to make farming more remunerative.

Selling of medicines at higher prices

†*120. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether domestic and foreign pharma companies are selling medicines at 1122 per cent higher rates as stated in the report of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- (b) if so, whether Government has failed to make these medicines available at controlled prices;
- (c) the maximum profit margin on medicines fixed by NPPA and whether compliance thereof is being ensured;
- (d) the number of companies and officials against whom action has been taken for violating fixed prices during the past three years; and
- (e) the number of meetings of Group of Ministers constituted to control prices of medicines held during the past three years and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, based on the study and analysis of Cost Audit Reports, has brought out the list of formulations where the concerned formulators are charging very high profit margins over their legitimate costs as under:—

- (i) Amlodipine
- (ii) Azithromycin
- (iii) Ciprofloxacin
- (iv) Metformin

Out of above, Ciprofloxacin is the only scheduled drug under DPCO, 1995. So as far as this drug is concerned the prices of bulk drugs Ciprofloxacin and related formulations could not be revised as the matter is *sub-judice*. NPPA is also aware of the lower market price of the bulk drug Ciprofloxacin than notified price under DPCO, 1995. In case of Ciprofloxacin based formulations NPPA has initiated actions for overcharging against the formulator. However, some of the defaulting major formulators have gone to the Court and due to stay granted in writ petition filed by M/s. Ranbaxy in Bombay High Court, price fixation/revision for Ciprofloxacin is affected. Further, NPPA is restrained to take coercive action for the recovery of the overcharged amount from M/s. Ranbaxy due to said case presently lying *sub-judice* in High Court of Bombay.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the

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