

MSP of wheat

1560. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for 2013-14 crop marketing season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the average rate price rise/money inflation during the last year; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices of wheat to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat for 2012-13 to be marketed in 2013-14 marketing season has not been finalized. The average rate of inflation in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 8.9 percent in 2011-12.

Government has taken several measures to promote use of modern technology including development of high yielding, pest/disease tolerant crop varieties/hybrid with tolerance to common abiotic stresses such as fluctuations in temperature, soil/water salinity, soil acidity, etc.

Research activities are focused to increase production and productivity of wheat by enhancing quality seed production, spread of new varieties etc. whereby farmers' economic conditions can be improved.

Delinking of PACS from State Cooperative Banks

1561. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in rural credit has declined in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken by Government to check the same;

(c) whether the Vaidyanathan Committee has recommended delinking of PACS from State Co-operative Banks; and