

1	2
Gram	3000
Masur (lentil)	2900
Rapeseed/Mustard	3000
Safflower	2800

(c) The Government has decided for further consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) regarding MSP for wheat.

(d) to (f) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops covered under MSP on the recommendations of the CACP, the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments to ensure a minimum return to the growers. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices including the price of fertilizers, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, international market prices situation etc.

Upgradation of Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar

183. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a letter to Government of Bihar for their NOC for upgrading the Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar to Central University;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the State Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this letter was issued on proposal of Planning Commission for their planning during 2009-10;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any proposal to upgrade the Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar to Central University; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Based on the report of the Special Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.C. Jha, the Planning Commission conveyed its 'in principle' approval for establishment of a new Central Agricultural University (CAU) at Pusa in Bihar. In pursuance of that a proposal was received from the Government of Bihar for conversion of the Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar into a Central Agricultural University (CAU).

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Government and the Central Government is being finalized.

Shifting of rice production from Punjab to Eastern States

184. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists have suggested that rice production should be shifted from Punjab to Eastern States due to plunging of the groundwater level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Scientists are concerned about the low ground water level in Punjab and have suggested diversification of cropping systems. Rice-Wheat system being remunerative to the farmers in Punjab, there is a need for research on alternate economic and viable cropping systems in the State. In this context the Punjab Government has prepared a plan for diversification for finding alternative cropping systems such as maize-wheat, cotton-wheat, sugarcane, etc. In addition, the Government of India has also initiated a special programme "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)".

Expansion of horticulture crops

185. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor marketing infrastructure, slow promotion and low productivity are some of the factors adversely impacting the expansion of horticultural crops in the country;