

1	2	3	4	5	6
24	Uttarakhand	80	80	2	2
25	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	1870	1503	20	387
26	Kolkata	44	44	0	0
TOTAL		18977	17484	86	1483

Note: BSNL maintains Telecom Circle wise information.

Central-State Farm in Madhya Pradesh

*265.DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Central-State Farm in each district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large area of land acquired for the purpose in Madhya Pradesh is lying unutilised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, district-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for proper utilisation of the said land?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Price rise of onion

*266.DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the wholesale price and the retail price of onion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that common man is suffering due to high retail price of onion;

(d) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to bring down the prices of onion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The gap between retail and wholesale prices of onion for the period April, 2012 to February, 2013 for four Metros is shown below.

Difference between Wholesale and Retail Prices of Onion from April, 2012 to February, 2013

(Rs./Kg)

Month	Bangalore			Mumbai			Delhi			Chennai		
	WP	RP	Diff.	WP	RP	Diff.	WP	RP	Diff.	WP	RP	Diff.
April, 12	7	10	3	5	10	5	7	12	5	6	10	4
May, 12	7	13	6	6	10	4	7	12	5	7	11	4
June, 12	8	13	5	6	10	4	8	15	7	9	12	3
July, 12	9	14	5	7	12	5	8	15	7	11	14	3
August, 12	10	13	3	8	12	4	8	16	8	10	14	4
Sept., 12	9	13	4	7	12	5	8	16	8	12	16	4
October, 12	16	19	3	9	16	7	11	17	6	15	20	5
Nov., 12	17	24	7	13	18	5	15	20	5	22	28	6
Dec., 12	17	22	5	14	18	4	11	20	9	18	24	6
Jan., 13	18	24	6	14	18	4	18	30	12	22	28	6
Feb., 13	15	20	5	15	22	7	11	25	14	20	26	6

Note: WP = Wholesale Price, RP = Retail Price.

The gap between wholesale and retail prices depends on the local demand-supply conditions and market imperfections including distance from production centres. Since onion is an important ingredient of the food basket of the common man, its price rise impacts adversely on household budgets.

Onion is a highly perishable commodity and is difficult to be stored over long periods. Therefore, onion prices tend to increase in the lean season before arrival of the next crop. Government has, through National Research Centre (NRC) on Onion and Garlic and National Horticulture Research Development Foundation (NHRDF), undertaken research on development of new varieties with longer shelf life, modern storage structures to reduce losses, etc., which would help stabilize prices of onion. Assistance is also provided by Government for creation of infrastructure for storage and marketing of fruits and vegetables, including onion.

Assistance to farmers in drought-hit Andhra Pradesh

*267. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has declared 230 Mandals as drought-hit recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry is helping farmers in the above Mandals under its various schemes, such as, Diesel Subsidy Scheme, Enhancement for Subsidy on Seeds, etc.;
- (d) whether any additional wage employment is proposed under MGNREGA; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* its notification dated 9th January, 2013 has declared 234 mandals in 9 districts of the State as drought affected during Kharif, 2012. District-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

State Government is empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of loss/damage to crops due to natural calamities from funds readily available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, can be provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), upon receipt of detailed memorandum from the State Government following which Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is deputed for assessing the situation and recommending central assistance as per established procedure and extant norms.