

(b) whether Government is also aware that during last crop season potato of thousands of farmers rotted lying on roads in absence of proper market facility in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken steps to ensure that during current crop season farmers would get a profitable price of potato; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) to (d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities on the request of the State/UT Governments. The scheme is implemented when the prices of these commodities tend to fall below the economic levels to ensure that the farmers are not forced to make distress sales of their produce. So far, Department has not received any request for procurement of potato and onion under MIS for the current crop season. During the year 2011-12, the Department has sanctioned MIS for procurement of 54,000 MT of onion in Karnataka and 1 lakh MT of potato in U.P. Similarly, during the year 2012-13, 1 lakh MT of potato was sanctioned for U.P. Against this, only 40,800 MT on onion was procured under MIS in Karnataka during 2011-12.

Activity maps for devolution of function etc. to PRIs

939. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing activity maps for devolution of functions, funds and finances to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes of the Ministry being covered and those which are not, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the deadline(s) set by the Ministry for completion of Activity Mapping for the first set of schemes and subsequent schemes and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Activity Maps are to be included in the guidelines of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry which envisage devolution of functions, funds and finances to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).