

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****De notifying fruits and vegetables under APMC Act**

2451. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to de-notify fruits and vegetables under the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all wholesale markets in Delhi under the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) are planning a complete closure of mandis by July end to protest against the move as it will hurt thousands of commission agents as well as farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has declared its intention, under sub-section 1 of section 3 read with section 4(4) of Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1998, of ceasing the regulation of marketing of fruits and vegetables in the respective market areas of the three Marketing Committees, namely, Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Market of National Importance (MNI), Azadpur, APMC Keshopur & APMC Shahdara, *vide* Notification dated 19.6.2014. Under the above provisions, objections or suggestions have been invited within 45 days of the publication of this notification.

(c) and (d) No such information has been received in this regard.

**Agriculture under threat**

2452. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture in the country is under threat, as a result of rapid urbanization, industrialization and infrastructure growth;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to sustain agriculture; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir. During the period 1999-2000 to 2009-10 area under non-agricultural uses has increased by 2.57 million hectares on