

**Consideration of milk as agricultural produce**

3230. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to declare milk as an agriculture produce; and

(b) if so, its implications on the dairy sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As on date, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to declare milk as an agriculture produce.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

**Bonus to farmers**

3231. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the State Governments to stop allowing bonus to farmers above the Minimum Support Price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the negative impact of such a move on the returns/farmers would get for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) Government has taken a policy decision that in case, a surplus State undertaking procurement in decentralized mode (called DCP) declares bonus for wheat or paddy from Kharif Marketing Season 2014-15 and Rabi Marketing Season 2015-16 onwards, the Central Government will limit the procurement for central pool to the extent of requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System/Other Welfare Schemes (TPDS/OWS) allocations of that State and will provide acquisition and distribution subsidy to the State Government accordingly. FCI has been directed to acquire any additional quantity of foodgrains from the State Government/its agencies for augmenting its stocks elsewhere, but it would not be under any compulsion to do so. The State Government will be responsible for the disposal of any surplus quantity procured in the State over and above this quantity and bear the financial burden in this regard.

For non-DCP States, it has been decided that if a State announces bonus over and above MSP, the FCI will not take part in MSP operations in the State concerned and State agencies will have to mobilize resources and take care of entire MSP operations in the State on their own including the arrangements to be made for storage of procured foodgrains. With respect to such States, FCI in consultation with the Department of Food and Public Distribution will decide as to how much stock of wheat or rice it should acquire from the concerned State in a particular season and will restrict its Central Pool procurement to that extent leaving rest of the surplus stocks to be disposed off by the State Government concerned at its own risk and cost.

The announcement of bonus by State Governments over and above the MSP fixed by the Central Government for paddy or wheat distorts market; leads to private buyers staying away from procurement; increases subsidy burden; distorts the cultivation pattern by encouraging the farmers to actively engage in cultivation of foodgrains for which the bonus has been announced ignoring other crops. Mono cropping can spoil conditions over the long run and diversification is needed to be encouraged for the betterment of farmers instead of encouraging them to grow more foodgrains by giving bonus.

#### **Agricultural reforms**

3232. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised any new schemes and programmes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the system of farm credit to farmers;

(c) whether Government has recently assessed the reasons for slow growth of agriculture, marketing problems being faced by farmers and non-availability of proper remuneration for their farm produce; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to bring radical agricultural reforms to alleviate the difficulties faced by farmers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Ongoing Schemes have been restructured and following centrally sponsored Missions/Schemes are under implementation from 1.4.2014:

(i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

(ii) National Horticulture Mission