

growth rate of 4.1% during Eleventh Plan period as compared to 2.5% and 2.4% during 9th & 10th Plan respectively. A target of 4% growth in Agriculture has been envisaged during Twelfth Plan Period.

(b) Notwithstanding the healthy growth rate registered by Agriculture sector, farmers do need assistance for better planning, cultivation and marketing of agricultural produces as well as for mobilizing finances for agricultural purposes.

(c) Agriculture being a State subject, State Governments take up several schemes and programmes in accordance with the agro-climatic conditions, felt needs of the State concerned for development of Agriculture and better income generation of farmers. In addition, Government of India also implements several schemes and provide financial assistance to States for the benefit of farmers for better planning, cultivation and marketing of their agricultural produce. Better extension support, timely agricultural and market information, best agricultural practices etc. are provided to farmers through State Governments/Agencies. States are being encouraged to modify their APMC Act and other statutory provisions so as to make those more conducive and beneficial to farmers. Government of India has also ensured availability of institutional loans/finances to farmers with provisions for interest subvention for timely payment.

#### **MSP for Paddy and other agriculture produces**

1060. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the MSP of paddy and other agricultural produces for current kharif season recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in MSP of paddy is not according to increase in cost of production, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for not fulfilling the promise to provide MSP to farmers at the rate of at least 1.5 times of their cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops including paddy for 2013-14 and 2014-15 season is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The MSP of Rs. 1360 per quintal for Common variety and Rs. 1400 per quintal for Grade A variety of paddy fixed by the Government for 2014-15 season gives adequate return over weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) estimated at Rs. 978 per quintal.

(d) National Commission on Farmers had recommended that the MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort market.

***Statement***

*Minimum Support Prices of Kharif Crops for 2013-14 and 2014-15*

*(Rs. per quintal)*

Commodity	Variety	2013-14	2014-15	Increase over 2013-14
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Kharif Crops</b>				
Paddy	Common	1310	1360	50
	Grade A	1345	1400	55
Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1530	30
	Maldandi	1520	1550	30
Bajra		1250	1250	-
Maize		1310	1310	-
Ragi		1500	1550	50
Arhar (Tur)		4300	4350	50
Moong		4500	4600	100
Urad		4300	4350	50
Cotton	Medium Staple	3700	3750	50
	Long Staple	4000	4050	50

1	2	3	4	5
Groundnut in shell		4000	4000	-
Sunflower seed		3700	3750	50
Soyabean	Black	2500	2500	-
	Yellow	2560	2560	-
Sesamum		4500	4600	100
Nigerseed		3500	3600	100

**Subsidy under MIP**

1061. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has substantially reduced subsidy given to farmers in undivided Andhra Pradesh under Micro Irrigation Project (MIP);

(b) whether Central Government proposed to divide the State into two areas *i.e.* drought prone areas and non-drought prone areas and decided to give subsidy on that basis;

(c) whether it would not burden the State and hamper the interest of farmers using drip and micro irrigation; and

(d) the reasons for taking this decision and the efforts new Government is making to review this decision and provide 90 percent subsidy under MIP to all farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Mission on Micro Irrigation scheme, under which assistance is provided on the cost of installation of Micro Irrigation systems, is subsumed under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with effect from 1st April, 2014 and is now implemented as "On Farm Water Management" (OFWM).

The rate of assistance is now 50% for small and marginal farmers and 35% for other farmers in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)/Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and North Eastern & Himalayan states. In case of other areas, assistance is 35% for small & marginal farmers and 25% for other farmers.