

(b) and (c) Government fixes MSPs of various crops on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

While recommending MSPs for various agricultural commodities the CACP also holds consultations with different stake holders including farmers' representatives.

The MSP of wheat for 2014-15 at ₹ 1450 per quintal provides adequate margin against all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) of ₹ 744 per quintal estimated by CACP.

(d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has taken a policy decision that from Kharif Marketing Season 2014-15 and Rabi Marketing Season 2015-16 onwards, if a State announces bonus over and above MSP, 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), in case of decentralized procurement (DCP) States where State Government undertakes direct purchase of paddy and wheat on behalf of Government of India. The State Government will also 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.

Market Intervention Scheme

1425. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got Market Intervention Scheme for procuring agricultural and horticultural commodities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds allocated by Government to different States for such a scheme, during the last three years; and

(c) the details of criteria for providing such funds to different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department

of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme namely Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature. The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices. Further, the MIS is implemented on the specific requests of the State Government/UT Administrations willing to share the loss with Central Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Under MIS, funds are not allocated to the States. Instead, Central share of losses as per the guidelines of MIS is released to the State Governments/UTs, for which MIS has been approved based on specific proposals received from them.

New agricultural loan scheme for small and marginal farmers

1426. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce some new agricultural loan schemes for small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of such existing schemes for small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Government has already taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter-alia*, include fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow; provision of crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks; benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts; collateral free loan upto ₹ 1.00 lakh; scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs); simplification of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme etc.

Growth rate of agriculture sector

1427. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether contribution of agriculture in GDP has been declining over the years and is likely to decline further, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;