

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The price rise in potato is not solely due to reduction in production but is attributed to several factors such as (i) seasonality, (ii) adverse weather conditions, (iii) cost of transportation, (iv) cold storage costs, (v) speculation on impending shortage situation (vi) rising demand due to increasing incomes, urbanisation, *etc.*

(e) Following important steps have been taken by the Government to do away with the imbalance between demand and supply and to control the prices of potato:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US\$ 450 per MT has been imposed on potato w.e.f. 26.06.2014.
- Stock limits in respect of potato have been imposed for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Advisory to State Governments have been issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has recently launched Kisan Mandi in Alipur, Delhi to cater to the huge market for fruits and vegetables by sourcing these directly from Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Growers' Associations.

Area under micro irrigation

635. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under micro irrigation projects, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any target for increasing the area under micro irrigation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is pursuing the Twelfth Five Year Plan target of bringing 90,000 hectares under micro irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) An area of approximately 42.47 lakh ha. has been covered since inception of Micro Irrigation scheme from 2005-06 to 2013-14. The State-wise details of area covered under Micro Irrigation are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Micro Irrigation scheme is an ongoing scheme intended to bring more area under its umbrella. National Mission on Micro Irrigation Scheme, under

which financial assistance is provided for Micro Irrigation System, is subsumed under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with effect from 1st April, 2014 and is now implemented as “On Farm Water Management”. The rate of assistance in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)/Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and North Eastern and Himalayan States is 50% for small and marginal farmers and 35% for other farmers. In case of other areas, assistance is 35% for small and marginal farmers and 25% for other farmers. Additional 10% assistance continues to be provided by the respective State Government to all categories of farmers.

(d) The Government aims to bring approximately 40 lakh ha. area under Micro Irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation) scheme during the 12th Five Year Plan.

Statement

State-wise area covered under Micro Irrigation Scheme as on 31st March 2014

Sl.No.	State	Area Covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	835881
2.	Bihar	91376
3.	Chhattisgarh	140901
4.	Goa	707
5.	Gujarat	537757
6.	Haryana	64196
7.	Jharkhand	20277
8.	Karnataka	630787
9.	Kerala	16872
10.	Madhya Pradesh	212423
11.	Maharashtra	711370
12.	Odisha	88989
13.	Punjab	28005
14.	Rajasthan	675420
15.	Tamil Nadu	157447
16.	Uttar Pradesh	25583
17.	West Bengal	900
18.	North Eastern and Himalayan States	8584
TOTAL		4247473