

Statement*District-wise extent of micronutrients deficiency noticed in Karnataka*

Districts	(% samples deficient)				
	Zinc	Iron	Copper	Manganese	Boron
Mandya	90	0	0	0	51
Ramnagaram	23	0	0	0	48
Banglore Rural	18	0	0	0	77
Chikballapura	57	0	0	0	67
Chitradurga	86	1	0	0	87
Kolar	13	0	0	0	100
Mysore	56	2	0	0	89
Tumkur	88	0	0	0	98
Hassan	68	0	0	0	100

Infrastructure for online trading

489. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to give ₹ 20-35 lakh per mandi to State Governments to put in place necessary infrastructure like storage, grading, sorting and other facilities required for smooth functioning of online trading, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the entire transportation and godown facilities at agri e-marketing platform would be covered by the APMC Act, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has approved a Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)' for ₹ 200 crores to be implemented during 2014-15 to 2016-17. Under the scheme, the funds will be utilized for creating an appropriate e-market platform that would be deployable in 642 wholesale regulated markets across the States and Union Territories (UTs).

In order to effectuate the e-market platform, there is provision for assistance of ₹ 24.00 lakhs to ₹ 34.00 lakhs to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees

(APMCs) for providing necessary infrastructure for grading and assaying, Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and other miscellaneous facilities. Further to increase market access, States must integrate warehouses with the platform to enable warehouse based sales and delivery, for which necessary reform in State APMC Act, if required, is to be made.

Decrease in crops sowing area

490. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under various rabi crops continues to fall with acreage in January, 2015 as compared to the corresponding period a year ago, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether major fall is in the acreage of gram which has dropped by over 15 per cent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that wheat has been sown on 293.16 lakh hectares as compared to last year's 294.30 lakh hectares with the area in States such as Madhya Pradesh, dropping, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per 2nd Advance Estimates for 2014-15 released on 18th February, 2015, total area coverage under rabi crops in the country is estimated at 614.69 lakh hectares, which is lower by 29.20 lakh hectares as compared to area coverage of 643.89 lakh hectares during rabi 2013-14. Details of area coverage under major rabi crops during 2014-15 *vis-a-vis* rabi 2013-14 are as under:-

Crop	Rabi Area Coverage (Lakh Hectares)	
	2014-15*	2013-14
Rice	41.66	46.87
Wheat	303.23	304.73
Coarse Cereals	53.63	59.46
Pulses	136.81	148.84
Foodgrains	535.35	559.90
Oilseeds	79.34	84.00
GRAND TOTAL	614.69	643.89

* 2nd Advance Estimate