

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Establishment of national common agricultural market**

*16. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the need for marketing reforms and privatisation in agriculture and food sectors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Economic Survey 2014-15 has also stressed the need for creation of a National Common Agricultural Market by removing restrictions and bottlenecks for free trade; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) 'Agriculture Marketing' is regulated by the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. In order to remove restrictive provisions of the State marketing laws and Agricultural Product Market Committees (APMCs), provide better price realization to the farmers through improved, competitive and transparent systems, enhance investment in development of post-harvest marketing infrastructure, etc. the Central Government has been engaging with the States for more than a decade to implement reforms in the sector. The reforms include development of alternative marketing channels involving greater private sector participation. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) formulated the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, 2003 (Model Act) and State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2007 (Model Rules) which were shared with the States/UTs for implementation. This has been followed by a number of interactive discussions with and advisories to States on market reforms.

Ministry of Agriculture has identified 7 vital areas of market reforms to pursue with the States/Union Territories. Progress of Reforms in terms of these 7 vital areas, is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Economic Survey, 2014-15 has highlighted the restrictions and bottlenecks to free trade in the present agricultural marketing system like fragmentation of market, multiple point levy of market fee, imposition of other taxes/Value Added Tax (VAT), multiple licensing requirement, etc. and has stressed the need for creation of a liberalized 'National Market for Agricultural Commodities'.

In order to develop efficient, barrier free agricultural marketing across the State with multiple alternative channels of marketing, the Central Government has been advocating reforms including the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 (Model Act) and State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2007 (Model Rules) and various advisories on doing away with market area concept, deregulation of marketing of fruits and vegetables outside the market yards, etc. Further, in order to build a modern transparent and efficient marketing system that could facilitate barrier free trade across the country, the Government proposes to launch a common e-marketing platform that is deployable in markets across the country. Towards this end, the Government has also approved a Central Sector Scheme for "Promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)" for ₹ 200 crores to be implemented during 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Statement-I

*Area-wise progress of market reforms as per major areas identified
in model APMC Act*

Sl.No.	Area of Reforms	States which have adopted the suggested area of market reforms in the Act
1	2	3
1.	Establishment of private market yards/ private markets managed by a person other than Market Committee.	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa (excluding for paddy/rice), Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, Punjab, UT of Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal (provision not clear).
2.	Direct purchase of agricultural produce from agriculturist by Processor/Bulk buyer/ Bulk retailer/exporter, etc.	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, Punjab, UT of Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal. U.P. (only for bulk purchase under executive order issued time to time)
3.	To promote and permit e-trading,	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Haryana, H.P., Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttarakhand .

1	2	3
4.	Establishment of farmers/ consumers market managed by a person other than a market committee (Direct sale by the producer)	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal
5.	Contract Farming Provision	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab (separate Act), Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, Uttarakhand.
6.	Single point levy of market fee	Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, UT of Chandigarh, Punjab, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Telangana, Uttarakhand.
7.	Single registration/ license for trade/ transaction in more than one market	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Telangana, Jharkhand .

डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालमुचू : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि 10 साल से इस विषय पर काम हो रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार की ऐसी भी कोई योजनाएं हैं, जो National Common Agriculture Market बनाने में बाधक हों, जैसे Essential Commodities Act और Land Tenancy Act. क्या इनमें संशोधन करने का आपका कोई विचार है?

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : माननीय सभापति महोदय, इस बारे में सरकार का निश्चित रूप से विचार है। चूंकि यह प्रदेशों से जुड़ा हुआ मामला है, इसलिए केंद्र सरकार ने लगातार सभी प्रदेश सरकारों से इसके लिए रिक्वेस्ट की है। केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से राज्य सरकारों को 5-Points भेजे गए हैं, जिन पर विचार करके, राज्य सरकारों को अपने सुझाव देने हैं। ये प्वाइंट्स हैं—Establishment of private yards and direct purchase of agricultural produce from agriculturists, establishment of private market yards, establishment of consumer farmer market, provision of contract farming, unified single registration, e-trading, single point levy of market fee.

कुछ प्रदेश सरकारों ने लिखकर अपने जवाब भेज दिए हैं और उन्होंने अपने APMCs में संशोधन भी कर लिया है, लेकिन कुछ प्रदेश सरकारों की तरफ से अभी संशोधन नहीं हुआ है। सरकार की मंशा एक National Common Market बनाने की है। जैसे ही सभी प्रदेश सरकारों की तरफ से इस पर विचार आएंगे, वैसे ही इस कार्य की शुरुआत कर दी जाएगी।

डा. प्रदीप कुमार बालमुचू : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा सप्लिमेंट्री है, जैसे कि अभी किसानों की बात चल रही है, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों का जो एग्रीकल्चरल प्रॉडक्ट है, उसको बाजार तक ले जाने के लिए उन्हें जो असुविधाएं हो रही हैं, उन असुविधाओं को देखते हुए क्या सरकार किसानों को कोई सुविधा या कोई सब्सिडी देने का विचार रखती है?

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : माननीय सभापति महोदय, एक सुविधा पर सरकार का लगातार विचार है, वह है ई-मार्केटिंग। इसके द्वारा अगर किसान अपनी कोई भी एग्रीकल्चरल कमांडिटी वेयरहाउस में रखता है, तो ई-टेंडरिंग के द्वारा उसकी बिक्री की जा सकती है। इसके लिए ट्रांसपोर्ट सब्सिडी का प्रावधान करने के लिए अभी तक सरकार का कोई विचार नहीं है।

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Thank you, Chairman, Sir. This is a very important issue. In the Minister's answer, paragraph (a) states that 'the Central Government has been engaging with the States for more than a decade to implement reforms in the sector. The reforms include development of alternative marketing channels involving greater private sector participation.' Sir, agricultural markets should not be privatized. If these are privatized, the farmers will be treated as bonded labour and then the black-markets will be encouraged. The price of agricultural products will be fixed by the corporate sector. Then, the farmers of the entire nation will be doomed. This is not advisable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, in the recent Budget speech, our Finance Minister has announced and page number 8 and paragraph 33 of his speech states that 'While the farmer is no longer in the clutches of the local trader, his produce still does not command the best national price.' ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please ask your question?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: 'To increase the income of farmers, it is imperative that we create a National Agriculture Market..' What happened to that? In the Budget speech itself, the Finance Minister announced it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Yes, I am coming to the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. You have taken too long to come to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: It relates to farmers' suicide. It is a very important issue. The National Agriculture Market has been announced in the Budget speech by the Finance Minister. But instead of that, now the Agriculture Minister is saying

that it is going to be privatized. Then, it will be very harmful to the farmers. What happened to the National Agriculture Market Scheme announced by the Finance Minister? How much budgetary provision to the States was given under the National Agriculture Market Scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान: सभापति महोदय, नेशनल एग्रीकल्चर मार्केट का जो कंसेप्ट है, उसे मैं माननीय सदस्य को समझाना चाहूंगा। इसके लिए केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से 200 करोड़ रुपये का प्रॉविजन है। इसके द्वारा हम पूरे देश में 500 मंडियों को सेलेक्ट कर के हर मंडी को 30 लाख रुपये जल्दी ही देने जा रहे हैं, जिससे पूरे देश की मार्केटिंग ई-मार्केट से जुड़ जाए। नेशनल एग्रीकल्चर मार्केट का कंसेप्ट प्राइवेटाइजेशन नहीं है, वह इसका एक छोटा-सा पार्ट है। इसका कंसेप्ट है कि पूरे देश की एग्रीकल्चर कमोडिटीज़ की ई-मार्केट के साथ बिक्री की जा सके, वे एक साथ जुड़ सकें और सारे प्रदेशों में ई-मार्केटिंग की शुरुआत की जा सके। कर्णाटक में कर्णाटक सरकार की तरफ से इसकी शुरुआत कर दी गई है और कर्णाटक की 52 मंडियों में ई-मार्केटिंग शुरू हो चुकी है। उसी पैटर्न पर पूरे देश को एक साथ जोड़ने की योजना केंद्र सरकार की है और जल्दी ही इसकी शुरुआत होने जा रही है।

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Respected Chairman, these are the days of agrarian agony. Agricultural marketing through e-trading is gaining ground all across the nation, including in my State of Telangana. And the reforms proposed by the Union Government have been accepted by several States, including my State of Telangana. I want to know whether the Union Government is on the way to develop e-platform model as a pilot project for the national market for agricultural commodities and whether it is envisaging to first take up the commercial crops like cotton, sugarcane and other products so that new examples can come up to evaluate the total national agricultural market.

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : माननीय सभापति महोदय, नेशनल एग्रीकल्चर मार्केट में एग्रीकल्चर की सभी कमोडिटीज़ का ध्यान रखा गया है, न कि कॉटन, शुगर, हार्टिकल्चर क्रॉप्स, वेजिटेबल्स, फ्रूट्स का। इसमें सभी चीजें इन्क्लूड हैं। मैं माननीय सांसद को बधाई देना चाहूंगा कि तेलंगाना उन प्रदेशों में शामिल है, जिन्होंने इन सुधारों की वकालत की है। इसमें सभी फसलें आएंगी, सभी एग्रीकल्चर कमोडिटीज़ की ई-ट्रेडिंग होगी और कॉटन सहित सभी चीजें इसमें शामिल होंगी।

Scheme to encourage students in agriculture-related fields

*17. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities in the country at present, location and State-wise;