

(c) ATMA under NMAET provides generic extension covering all the crops and allied sectors through extension activities/capacity building programmes like Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Melas, Farmer-Scientist-Interaction, Mobilization of Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farm Schools, etc. NFSM carries out counselling of farmers through cluster demonstrations and FFSS for Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Cotton, Jute, and Sugarcane Crops. MIDH imparts capacity building programme for farmers in horticultural crops namely - fruits, vegetables, roots and tuber crops, mushroom, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo, etc.

ICAR: The major crops covered were rice, wheat, maize and barley (Cereals); barnyard millet, finger millet, pearl millet (Millets); groundnut, sesame, soyabean, sunflower, linseed, mustard, castor (Oilseeds); black gram, cowpea, field pea, green gram, lentil, pigeon pea, *rajmash* (Pulses); sugarcane, cotton, betel leaf, guar seed (Commercial Crops); berseem; cowpea, maize, lucerne, napier, oat, sorghum (Fodder Crops); vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices and condiments, tuber crops and plantation crops (Horticultural Crops).

Profit margin over cost of production

2108. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is becoming unremunerative particularly for small and marginal farmers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken to fix remunerative pricing with 50 per cent profit margin over cost of production for all the 24 crops as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Forty-first Report in the year 2007-08;

(c) whether the National Commission on Farmers had recommended that the MSP should be atleast 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not accepting the recommendation made by the National Commission on Farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) As per the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households (January, 2013-December, 2013) conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), at the all-India level the average monthly receipts from crop production, per agricultural household, exceeded their average monthly paid out expenses for farmers including for small and marginal farmers.

Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) on the recommendation of the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture had recommended that MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation was not accepted by the Government as MSP is recommended by Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) on objective criteria, considering a variety of relevant factors and prescribing an increase of at least 50% of cost may distort the market.

Development of agro-machineries

2109. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modern/latest farm technologies available to farmers to assist them in cultivation of crops in the country;

(b) whether Government provides subsidy/cash subsidy to farmers for purchasing different farm machineries, seeds, fertilizers and electricity etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and component-wise; and

(d) the details of research and development work undertaken for development of agro-machineries to overcome the shortage of farm labourers in agriculture sector, particularly in the States of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Government has introduced and is supporting various farm technologies to sustain growth of agriculture under various Missions/Schemes, such as integrated farming system/ cropping system with appropriate resource conservation technologies; development of high yielding pest/disease tolerant crop varieties/hybrids; water use efficiency enhancement through micro irrigation; soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers;