

Sale of agricultural produce below the production cost

†2110. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will bring agricultural produces like paddy, wheat, potato and onion under the minimum support price mechanism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for which farmers are constrained to sell their produces at prices lower than their production cost and to commit suicide, the details of action plan formulated by Government in this regard, in view of the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural produce which generally have fairly long shelf life and necessary for food/nutrition security. Paddy and wheat are covered under the MSP mechanism.

For agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme such as potato and onion Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

(c) According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) causes of suicide by farmers, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal problems etc.

To improve agricultural production and productivity Government has taken steps for increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, increasing credit flow to agriculture sector, interest subvention on crop loans etc. Government also implements various programmes/schemes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) etc.

To ensure that farmers get adequate price for their produce, States/UTs have been advised to amend their respective State APMC Acts on the lines of Model Act, 2003. Government has also approved the Scheme for promotion of National Agriculture Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (A-TIF).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.