

MSP of paddy

491. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently declared to increase only 50 paise per kilogram in the MSP of paddy for Kharif season 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons and rationale for such a meagre increase in MSP of paddy when thousands of farmers are committing suicide in the country on monthly basis; and

(c) whether Government would review the increase in MSP, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Government fixes MSP for the major agricultural produce including paddy on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy (common) fixed at ₹ 1410 per quintal and of paddy Grade A at ₹ 1450 per quintal for 2015-16 season provides adequate margin over its all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) of ₹ 1020 per quintal estimated by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSP is in the nature of minimum price offered by the Government. Producers have the option to sell their produce to Government agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Soil testing of farmers' fields

†492. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY:

MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake testing of the soil of fields belonging to thirteen and half crore farmers at a cost of ₹ 600 crore approximately; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The Scheme "Soil Health Card" has been launched for implementation during the Twelfth Plan with an outlay of ₹ 568.54 crore. Under the scheme, Soil Health Cards will be provided to all farmers in the country at an interval of 3 years so as to enable the farmers to apply appropriate recommended dosages of nutrients for crop production and improving soil health and its fertility. Objectives of Scheme Soil Health Card are as follows:

- (i) To issue Soil Health Cards every 3 years, to all farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices.
- (ii) To strengthen functioning of Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) through capacity building, involvement of agriculture students and effective linkage with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).
- (iii) To diagnose soil fertility related constraints with standardized procedures for sampling uniformly across States and analysis and design taluqa/block level fertilizer recommendations in targeted districts.
- (iv) To develop and promote soil test based nutrient management in the districts for enhancing nutrient use efficiency.
- (v) To build capacities of district and State level staff and of progressive farmers for promotion of nutrient management practices.

Action plan to face drought situation

†493. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:

SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has/had formulated any action plan to face the drought situation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of amount provided as assistance to face the drought situation in the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), ICAR has developed agriculture contingency plans in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities in 600 districts of the country. The contingency plan provides broad advisory to farmers at the district level, prescribing alternate strategies in the event of climatic variability, by factoring

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