

In India, Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of 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 which, *inter alia*, include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. The MSPs of wheat and Paddy for 2014-15 provide a return of 94.9 percent and 39.1 percent over their respective all India weighted average all paid out costs including family labour (A2+FL). Producers have the option to sell their produce to Government agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(d) There is no information available regarding the number of farmers who have left their profession due to non-remunerative MSP. However, as per the Agricultural Census, 2010-11 the number of cultivators in terms of operational holdings in the country increased from 129.22 million in 2005-06 to 138.35 million in 2010-11.

#### **Downward trend in foodgrain production**

2255. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ₹ 50,000 crore Union Government Scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has seen progress in implementation given that India's foodgrains production has declined by 5.25 per cent to 251.12 million tonnes in 2014-15 crop year against the record 265.04 million tonnes in the previous year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for downward trend in foodgrains production despite the vast spending on irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) With the objective of enhancing irrigation coverage and improving the delivery system at farm level, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been operationalised from 1st July, 2015. A sum of ₹50,000 crore of central share has been provisioned for implementation of the scheme during next five years (2015-16 to 2019-20). PMKSY envisages end to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. The scheme is in the initial stages of implementation.

(b) As per available estimates, the total foodgrain production was 244.49 million tonnes in 2010-11 when the irrigation coverage was 47.8%. In the Year 2011-12 the

foodgrain production was estimated to be 259.29 million tones against the irrigation coverage of 49.8%. However, despite rainfall deficiency of 12% during 2014-15, as per the available estimates, the decline in foodgrain production has been only by 4.66% as against 2013-14. Fluctuation in foodgrain production is also dependent on various others climatic factors like floods, hailstorms, unseasonal rain etc.

### **Decline in sowing of coarse cereals**

2256. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sowing of coarse cereals has declined 6 per cent to 5.51 million hectares in December last;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor compared to the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to correct the situation by announcing the incentives to coarse cereals in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Depending on yearly variations in weather, rainfall situation, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift in area due to comparative profitability of other competing crops, State-wise area of coarse cereals during last three years *i.e.* 2012-13 to 2014-15 in the country has followed mixed trend. State-wise details of area coverage under Coarse Cereals during 2012-13 to 2014-2015 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

It is observed that during 2014-15 area coverage under Coarse Cereals has been 241.49 lakh hectare which is lower by 10.71 lakh hectare than the area coverage of 252.20 lakh hectare during 2013-14.

(c) In order to promote cultivation of coarse cereals in the country, the Government of India is implementing since 2014-15, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme “National Food Security Mission NFSM-Coarse Cereals” NFSM-Coarse Cereals being implemented in 264 districts of 28 States aims to increase production of coarse cereals in the country by 3 million tonnes by the end of 12th Plan period *i.e.* 2016-17. The scheme is focused on organization of cluster demonstrations on improve package of technologies and distribution of quality seeds of new varieties/hybrids. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided at the rate of ₹ 5000/- per hectare for demonstrations of improved packages of technologies, ₹ 1500/- per quintal for distribution of seeds of high yielding