

Reforms in sale management of agricultural products

†535. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great difference between the producer's cost and consumer price of the agricultural products in the country due to faulty management of sale of the same;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a gap to the extent of 100 per cent to 500 per cent in producer's cost and consumer price in a number of agricultural products has been found;

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) the measures Government are taking to make comprehensive reforms in the sale management of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN):

(a) and (b) The difference between the price received by producer and the consumer's price for agricultural commodities depend on various factors such as type of commodity, its perishability, distance from the consumer market, etc. Various studies conducted by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Faridabad, an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture has revealed that the producer share in consumer price in respect of foodgrains and oilseeds ranges from 65 to 70 per cent, while in case of vegetables such as potato and onion, it ranges from 45 to 60 per cent. Recent study conducted by Confederation of Indian Industries has revealed that in the case of fruits and vegetables, farmer realizes less than 30 per cent of the final consumer price.

(c) and (d) The agricultural marketing system in the country needs to be integrated and strengthened to enhance the share of farmers in the ultimate price of agricultural produce. Towards this end, States have been advised to liberalize the law governing agricultural markets (APMC Act) to facilitate development of competitive markets by private

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and co-operative sectors; allow procurement of agricultural commodities directly from farmer's field and to establish effective linkage between the farm production and the retail chain and Food Processing Industries. States have also been advised to provide institutional support to contract farming arrangements in which national and multi-national companies enter into contracts for marketing of agricultural produce as an effective method of linking small farmers to source of extension advice, seed, credit and to assured and profitable markets. At the National Conference of State Agriculture Minister held at New Delhi on 07.01.2004, all the State Governments agreed to review their respective APMC Act for implementing the suggested reforms.

Foodgrain allocation to States under Antyodaya Anna Yojna

‡536. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated foodgrains to various States under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojna';

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains allocated to each State under the said scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether States have made proper utilization of foodgrains allocated by the Central Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allocated to each State/UT under Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) during the last three years is given in the Statement.

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