

letters. The total number of persons empanelled for various Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' posts including safety category during last three years is 1,92,026.

**Irregularities in procurement and storage of wheat in Punjab**

†\*224. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in its audit report has pointed out several irregularities in procurement of wheat and its storage in Punjab, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(b) whether huge difference in purchase and storage of wheat in Punjab by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has come to light;

(c) if so, the details of differences in records of wheat storage by FCI in Punjab during last three years; and

(d) the details of irregularities in procurement and storage of wheat and the amount withdrawn from banks that have come to light?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) No irregularities have been either pointed out by CAGs or come to the knowledge of the Government of India about procurement of wheat and its storage during last 3 years in Punjab Region. No difference has come to light in purchase and storage of wheat by FCI in Punjab. Also, no irregularity of procurement and storage of wheat in Punjab has come to light. No irregularities regarding amount withdrawn for procurement operations by Government of Punjab from the Banks has come to knowledge of the Government. However, there are Cash Credit Limit (CCL) outstandings owed by the Government of Punjab to the Banks.

**Implementation of recommendation of Swaminathan Committee**

\*225. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact, including financial implications of implementation of the recommendation of Swaminathan Committee to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) at the rate of one and half times the cost of production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers had recommended that "The Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production". This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort market.

The Government's price policy for major agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable price. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The designated central and state agencies intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government.

Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors, which include *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, etc. The cost of production, *inter-alia*, includes all paid out costs including imputed value of family labour.

MSP is in the nature of minimum price offered by the Government. Producers of crops have the option to sell their produce to the Government agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Government has announced MSPs for 2015-16 season. Details indicating MSPs since 2011-12 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

All India weighted average cost of production along with family labour (A2+FL), MSP and profit margin over cost of production for 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in Statement-II.

**Statement-I***Details of Minimum Support Prices since 2011-12**(According to crop year)*

(As on 12.04.2016) (₹ per quintal)										
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	(#) increase in MSP 2014-15 over 2013-14	2015-16	(#) increase in MSP 2015-16 over 2014-15	2016-17 (#) increase in MSP 2016-17 over 2015-16
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Khariff Crops</b>										
1.	Paddy	Common	1080	1250	1310	1360	50(3.8)	1410	50(3.7)	
		Grade 'A'	1110	1280	1345	1400	55(4.1)	1450	50(3.6)	
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	980	1500	1500	1530	30(2.0)	1570	40(2.6)	
		Maidandi	1000	1520	1520	1550	30(2.0)	1590	40(2.6)	
3.	Bajra		980	1175	1250	1250	-	1275	25(2.0)	
4.	Maize		980	1175	1310	1310	-	1325	15(1.1)	
5.	Ragi		1050	1500	1500	1550	50(3.3)	1650	100(6.5)	
6.	Arhar (Tur)		3200¶	3850	4300	4350	50(1.2)	4425^	75(1.7)	

7.	Moong		3500¶	4400	4500	4600	100(2.2)	4650^	50(1.1)
8.	Urad		3300¶	4300	4300	4350	50(1.2)	4425^	75(1.7)
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	2800 <sup>a</sup>	3600	3700	3750	50(1.4)	3800	50(1.3)
		Long Staple	3300 <sup>aa</sup>	3900	4000	4050	50(1.3)	4100	50(1.2)
10.	Groundnut in Shell		2700	3700	4000	4000	-	4030	30(0.8)
11.	Sunflower Seed		2800	3700	3700	3750	50(1.4)	3800	50(1.3)
12.	Soyabean	Black	1650	2200	2500	2500	-	-	-
		Yellow	1690	2240	2560	2560	-	2600\$\$	40(1.6)
13.	Sesamum		3400	4200	4500	4600	100(2.2)	4700	100(2.2)
14.	Nigerseed		2900	3500	3500	3600	100(2.9)	3650	50(1.4)
<b>Rabi Crops</b>									
15.	Wheat		1285	1350	1400	1450	50(3.6)	1525	75(5.2)
16.	Barley		980	980	1100	1150	50(4.5)	1225	75(6.5)
17.	Gram		2800	3000	3100	3175	75(2.4)	3425**	250(7.9)
18.	Masur (Lentil)		2800	2900	2950	3075	125(4.2)	3325**	250(8.1)
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		2500	3000	3050	3100	50(1.6)	3350	250(8.0)

Written Answers to

[13 May, 2016]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20.	Safflower		2500	2800	3000	3050	50(1.7)	3300	250(8.2)		
21.	Toria		2425	2970	3020	3020	-	3290	270(8.9)		
	<b>Other Crops</b>										
22.	Copra	Milling	4525	5100	5250	5250	-	5550	300(5.7)	5950	400(7.2)
	(Calender Year)	Ball	4775	5350	5500	5500	-	5830	330(6.0)	6240	410(7.0)
23.	De-Husked		1200	1400	1425	1425	-	1500	75(5.3)	1600	100(6.7)
	Coconut										
	(Calender Year)										
24.	Jute		1675	2200	2300	2400	100(4.3)	2700	300(12.5)	3200	500(18.5)
25.	Sugarcane*		145.00	170.00	210.00	220.00	10(48)	230.00	10(4.5)		

# Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

\* Fair and remunerative price.

¶ Additional incentive at the rate of ₹ 500 per quintal of tur, urad and moong sold to procurement agencies was payable during the harvest/arrival period of two months.

<sup>a</sup> Staple length (mm) of 24.5 - 25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3 - 5.1

<sup>aa</sup> Staple length (mm) of 29.5 - 30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5 - 4.3

<sup>^</sup> Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal is payable over and above the Minimum Support Price

\*\* Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal is payable over and above the Minimum Support Price.

\$\$ Single Minimum Support Price has been fixed irrespective of the variety.

**Statement-II***Details of MSP, Cost of Production (A2+FL) and Profit Margin of Major Crops*

(₹ per quintal)

Commodity	2014-15			2015-16		
	MSP	A2+FL	Profit Margin over cost of production (%)	MSP	A2+FL	Profit Margin over cost of production (%)
<b>Kharif Crops</b>						
Paddy	1360	978	39.1	1410	1020	38.2
Maize	1310	914	43.3	1325	941	40.8
Arhar (Tur)	4350	3105	40.1	4425^	3237	36.7
Cotton(Medium Staple)	3750	2510	49.4	3800	2753	38.0
Cotton(Long Staple)	4050	2510	61.4	4100	2753	48.9
Groundnut in shell	4000	3232	23.8	4030	3314	21.6
Soyabean	2560	1729	48.1	2600	1770	46.9
<b>Rabi Crops</b>						
Wheat	1450	744	94.9	1525	785	94.3
Gram	3175	1902	66.9	3425*	2124	61.3
Rapeseed/Mustard	3100	1504	106.1	3350	1702	96.8

^ Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal is payable over and above MSP.

\* Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal is payable over and above MSP.

A2+FL= All paid out costs+ imputed value of family labour.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Cold storage units**

2241. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage units set up in the country during last five years to prevent wastage of fruits and vegetables, State-wise;

(b) whether the current number of cold storage units are adequate to hold the large amount of vegetables and fruits being produced in the country; and