

(b) whether in the absence of such amendment in many States, they are not able to sell the farmers' produce through electronic sale in mandis;

(c) if so, how Government is planning to persuade the States to amend their respective APMC Acts for win-win situation for farmers and sellers; and

(d) whether Government will consider giving single licence to anyone willing to trade through National Agriculture Markets (NAM) in local mandis, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The States, which have undertaken reforms in their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Acts in respect of (i) a single license to be valid across the State; (ii) single point levy of market fee; and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery, as pre-requisites, are eligible for electronic trading under National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). States eligible under the e-NAM Scheme are-Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In the absence of such amendments in respect of above three areas, States will not be able to sell the farmers' produce electronically through e-NAM portal.

Government is already working with the States to persuade them to amend their marketing regulations to meet the mandatory reform requirements for integration of their markets with e-NAM portal.

(d) The State Governments, which have amended their Marketing Acts and are willing to join e-NAM, are expected to give single unified licence to anyone willing to trade through e-NAM in the mandis of the State.

#### **Use of Geo-Spatial technology in agriculture sector**

560. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed any MoU with ISRO to use Geo-Spatial technology in agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how this technology will help to increase the crop yield and profitability of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Sir, There

is no formal MoU signed between Government and ISRO. However, there is collaboration between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Government for use of Geospatial Technology in Agriculture Sector, including Crop Forecasting, Drought Assessment, Horticultural Inventory and Development, Technology for Crop Insurance.

ISRO has supported Government in the establishment of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) as an Attached Office under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers, in form of human resources and technology transfer.

Geospatial technology is being used for various applications in agriculture such as crop damage assessment, crop condition monitoring, yield estimation, crop cutting experiment planning, horticultural development, identification of rice fallow areas etc. These technologies are useful and beneficial for adopting appropriate and suitable interventions by farmers for improving their crop productivity.

#### **Revamping the mechanism for MSP**

561. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to revamp the current mechanism of MSP declaration of crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the proposed key changes to make this mechanism more farmer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce 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. CACP also holds consultation with all the stakeholders including farmers before formulating its recommendations.

Methodology for estimating the cost of production is reviewed from time to time. Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP) in 2013, to examine the methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Prices. One of