

Tiger trail circuit train in Sunderbans

*64. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tiger Trail Circuit Train does not pass through the Sunderbans;

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

(c) whether the Ministry will consider including Sunderbans in the itinerary of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The present itinerary of the tourist train Tiger Express covers Delhi–Katni (Bandhavgarh and Kanha)–Jabalpur (Bedhaghat and Dhuadhar Waterfall)–Delhi and does not cover Sunderbans. Presently, there is no plan to add Sunderbans on the Tiger Express itinerary. Addition of more destinations/tourist circuits to the itinerary of tourist trains is a continuous process, based on availability of resources and market demand.

MSP for Kharif crops

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

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, including paddy, for Kharif season 2016-17, if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that increase in MSP of paddy is very less remunerative in comparison to the increase in its cost of production, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to review the MSP of paddy and provide remunerative price to poor farmers who are committing suicide on an alarming scale; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops including paddy for 2016-17 season, Details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops including paddy on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural

Costs and Prices (CACP), the 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, *inter-alia*, include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on cost of living, effect on industrial cost structure etc. The cost of production, *inter-alia*, includes all paid out costs and imputed value of family labour.

The all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) for paddy for 2016-17, as estimated by CACP, is ₹ 1045 per quintal. The MSP for paddy fixed by Government for 2016-17 at ₹ 1470 per quintal for common variety and ₹ 1510 per quintal for Grade 'A' variety, provides a profit margin of 40.67% and 44.50% respectively over its cost of production (A2+FL).

In order to increase farm productivity and farmers' income Government has taken various initiatives viz. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, promotion of use of Neem Coated Urea, Unified National Agriculture Markets, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

Statement

Minimum Support Price for kharif crops of 2016-17

(in ₹ per quintal)			
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
Kharif Crops			
1.	Paddy	Common	1470
		Grade 'A'	1510
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1625
		Maldandi	1650
3.	Bajra		1330
4.	Maize		1365
5.	Ragi		1725
6.	Arhar (Tur)		5050^^
7.	Moong		5225^^
8.	Urad		5000^^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3860
		Long Staple	4160

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2016-17
10.	Groundnut in Shell		4220*
11.	Sunflower Seed		3950*
12.	Soyabean	Black	-
		Yellow	2775*
13.	Sesamum		5000^
14.	Nigerseed		3825*

*Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

^Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

Welfare schemes for farmers

*66. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited from the Soil Health Card scheme in the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to launch any such new schemes for the welfare of farmers; and

(c) the details of various farmers' welfare schemes that have been launched by Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The scheme targets to distribute Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to each of the 14 crore farmers once in every cycle of 2 years. As per the grid pattern adopted, a total number of 253 lakh number of soil samples are to be collected to generate the targeted number of SHCs. Since the launch of the scheme in February 2015, as many as 184.75 lakh number of samples have been collected of which 87.90 lakh have been tested and 227 lakh cards have been distributed to the farmers.

(b) Government is planning to launch a dedicated scheme on Agro forestry. A budgetary provision of ₹ 75 crore has been made for the year 2016-17 for National Project on Agro forestry.

(c) The details of various farmers' welfare schemes that have been launched during the last two years are given below:

- (i) **Soil Health Card Scheme:** The Government has introduced Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme with an aim to provide soil health cards to all farmers across