

Year	Cultivated Land
2010-11	155.84
2011-12	155.49
2012-13	155.21

(c) to (e) In consonance with the Government's declaration to double the income of the farmers over the next six (6) years, the Government has constituted an inter-ministerial committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary of the Department to recommend appropriate strategy.

Marketing facilities to onion growers

1368. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that onion growing farmers were compelled to sell their produce at price lower than the cost of production or to leave their onions openly on roads to rot in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during current year in absence of proper marketing facility and remunerative price, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government to provide marketing facility to onion growers in the country during last two years; and

(c) the measures Government would take to provide marketing facility and remunerative price to farmers during next onion and potato season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per reports available from State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, in current season, no such incidence of farmers leaving their onions openly on the roads to rot has come up. States have reportedly provided better marketing facilities for sale of fruits and vegetables including onions.

(c) In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce including onion and potato, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016. The scheme aims to facilitate onion and potato growers to sell their produce online, thus accessing to large number of markets and

buyers. Under the scheme, a national level electronic trading portal has been developed by the Government to initially connect 585 regulated wholesale markets across the country by March, 2018. This would facilitate them in getting the remunerative prices in competitive and transparent manner.

Further, under mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), assistance is provided for development of Post-harvest Management (PHM) and marketing infrastructure also. The component of market infrastructure includes rural primary markets, wholesale markets and terminal market complexes. Under PHM component of the scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy @35-50% is available for creation of various types of post-harvest infrastructure.

For rural primary markets, credit linked back ended subsidy @40% in general areas and @55% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of ₹ 25.00 lakh is available.

For wholesale markets, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 25% in general areas and @ 33.33% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of 100.00 crore/project is available.

For terminal market complex, under PPP mode, assistance @ 25% to 40% (limited to ₹ 50.00 crore) of project cost of 150.00 crore/project, which includes 25% as floor subsidy plus 15% as subsidy on bidding is available.

Production of apple

1369. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of apple has dropped ten to fifteen per cent in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the production of apple during each of last three years and the estimated production during the current year in major apple producing States, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide assistance to the affected farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. According to the information received from the states so far, there is likely to be an increase of about 36% in apple production in the country during the year, 2015-16 as compared to the previous year, 2014-15.