

been included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). 12 districts namely Ajmer, Jaipur, Alwar, Jalore, Barmer, Jhunjhunu, Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Nagaur, Churu, Sikar are covered under coarse cereals component of NFSM.

(b) As per operational guidelines of NFSM, districts covering 70% of the total coarse cereals area including maize of state have been included under coarse cereals component of NFSM.

MSP for Rajasthan specific crops

†1379. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the specific crops of the State of Rajasthan viz. Gwar, Moth, Cuminseeds, Garlic, Isabgol, Castonseeds, Aloe Vera and Heena;

(b) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria being followed to determine the Minimum Support Price and the basis for outlining the criteria, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government does not fix separate MSP for State specific crops.

(c) While determining the MSP, various factors are taken into consideration, such as; cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, likely effect of price policy on rest of the economy and rational utilization of natural resources like land and water, so as to evolve in a balanced and integrated price structure in keeping with the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of producers and consumers.

Shrinking of agriculture land

1380. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land is shrinking in the urban and semi-urban areas across the country due to diversion of such land for non-agricultural purposes, if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc., the agricultural land in the country is gradually declining. As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available), total area of agricultural land in the country has marginally declined from 181.96 million hectares in 2011-12 to 181.95 million hectares in 2012-13.

As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers-2007 (NPF-2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural developmental activities, including industrial and construction activities. The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy - 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible.

To bring additional area under agricultural land, Ministry of Rural Development had been implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. From 2015-16, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Government of India is also implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this Mission, all type of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and partly such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices.

Compensation of farmers affected by drought or unseasonal rains

†1381. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to make up for the loss of crops to farmers due to unseasonal rains or drought;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.