

The Government offers to procure the crops at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif and rabi crops for 2016-17 season which give returns of 40.7% for Paddy, 103.9% for Wheat, 55.8% for Tur, 28.5% for Moong, 39.5% for Urad, 78.5% for Gram, 25.2% for Groundnut, 97.8% for Rapeseed/Mustard, 44.0% for Cotton etc. over all India weighted average cost of production as estimated by CACP *i.e.* all paid out costs including family labour (A2+FL).

Government has taken several initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity which, *inter alia*, include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card etc.

Compensation to fishermen for damaged boats and equipments

1937. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government will consider raising compensation to fishermen, whose boat and other fishing equipments are damaged due to natural calamities, from an amount of less than ₹ 1 lakh to 50 per cent of their cost, as fishing unit at present costs about ₹ 3.5 lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Role of co-operatives in collection of milk from producers

1938. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any major programme to encourage co-operative involvement in collection of milk directly from the producers on the lines of success story of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of such scheme(s) which Government has launched along with the thrust areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) whether Government has also planned to extend financial assistance to the milk producers to encourage them to avail benefits of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes to encourage co-operative involvement in collection of milk directly from the producers;

(i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I): The Government of India has approved National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I) with an outlay of ₹ 2,242 crore for implementation during 2011-12 to 2018-19 as a Central Sector Scheme in 18 major milk producing States. The Scheme is implemented through National Dairy Development Board and the objectives of the National Dairy Plan, Phase I are:-

1. To help increase the productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.
2. To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organized milk-processing sector.

(ii) National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) under the Central Sector Scheme “National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development” (NPBBDD): The National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) approved during 2013-14 with the budget provision of ₹ 600 crore for implementation during 12th Plan. The objective of the scheme is to create dairy infrastructure for improved procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products.

(iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS): “Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)” is implemented through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) across the country with an aim to generate self employment opportunities in the dairy sector, covering activities such as enhancement of milk production, procurement, preservation, transportation, processing and marketing of milk by providing back ended capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost to the General Category and @ 33.33% of the project cost to SC/ST category farmers/beneficiaries for bankable projects through NABARD subject to the norms of the scheme.

(c) The milk producers are already availing financial benefits under the above mentioned schemes.