

representation from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand has been received, *inter alia*, requesting for running of a daily Rajdhani Express train between Ranchi and New Delhi. Presently, Ranchi and New Delhi are connected on 4 days in a week by 2 pairs of bi-weekly Rajdhani Express trains viz. 12439/12440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (bi-weekly) [via Bokaro] and 12453/12454 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (bi-weekly) [via Daltonganj]. On the remaining 3 days of the week, 12877/12878 Ranchi-New Delhi Garib Rath Express (tri-weekly) [via Daltonganj] runs on a common path/timings with the Rajdhani group of trains between Son Nagar and New Delhi via Mughalsarai. Thus, owing to the non-availability of path and resource constraints including severe line capacity limitations/congestion on the Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Ghaziabad-New Delhi section, running of Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express on a daily basis is not feasible at present.

Reduction of MSP

†*317. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Support Price (MSP), given by Government to farmers, has proved to be beneficial;

(b) whether many a times, Government reduces this amount in comparison to the previous year's MSP;

(c) whether farmers incur heavy losses due to this; and

(d) if so, whether Government is contemplating to make rules to provide that the MSP will not be less as compared to that of the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after considering the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers, *inter alia*, a number of important factors which include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. The MSPs fixed by Government also incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology and raise productivity and production.

The MSPs fixed by the Government have been largely beneficial to farmers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government offers to procure crops whenever prices fall below 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.

In general the Government does not reduce the MSP as compared to MSP fixed in the previous year. The MSPs fixed by the Government from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

List of MSPs fixed by the Government from 2012-13 to 2016-17

			(₹ Per quintal)				
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Kharif Crops							
1.	Paddy	Common	1250	1310	1360	1410	1470
		Grade 'A'	1280	1345	1400	1450	1510
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1500	1530	1570	1625
		Maldandi	1520	1520	1550	1590	1650
3.	Bajra		1175	1250	1250	1275	1330
4.	Maize		1175	1310	1310	1325	1365
5.	Ragi		1500	1500	1550	1650	1725
6.	Arhar (Tur)		3850	4300	4350	4625^	5050^^
7.	Moong		4400	4500	4600	4850^	5225^^
8.	Urad		4300	4300	4350	4625^	5000^^
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3600	3700	3750	3800	3860
		Long Staple	3900	4000	4050	4100	4160
10.	Groundnut in Shell		3700	4000	4000	4030	4220*
11.	Sunflower Seed		3700	3700	3750	3800	3950*
12.	Soyabean	Black	2200	2500	2500	-	-
		Yellow\$\$	2240	2560	2560	2600	2775*
13.	Sesamum		4200	4500	4600	4700	5000^
14.	Nigerseed		3500	3500	3600	3650	3825*

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Rabi Crops							
15.	Wheat		1350	1400	1450	1525	1625
16.	Barley		980	1100	1150	1225	1325
17.	Gram		3000	3100	3175	3500**	4000^
18.	Masur (Lentil)		2900	2950	3075	3400**	3950&
19.	Rapeseed/Mustard		3000	3050	3100	3350	3700*
20.	Safflower		2800	3000	3050	3300	3700*
Other Crops							
21.	Copra	Milling	5100	5250	5250	5550	5950
	(Calender Year)	Ball	5350	5500	5500	5830	6240
22.	De-Husked Coconut		1400	1425	1425	1500	1600
	(Calender Year)						
23.	Jute		2200	2300	2400	2700	3200
24.	Sugarcane\$		170.00	210.00	220.00	230.00	230.00

\$ Fair and remunerative price.

\$\$ Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow is also applicable to black variety during 2015-16 and 2016-17.

* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

** Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

& Including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal

Development works in Railways under MPLADS

*318. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to continue the scheme under which MPs can recommend railway development works under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details of MPs from Kerala and the various development schemes recommended by them under MPLADS and the status of such works as of now; and

(c) whether Railways would depute some senior officials to monitor and follow up the progress of the ongoing works taken up under MPLADS and to interact with the concerned MPs regarding the progress and early completion of such works in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad divisions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.