

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Marketing Research and Information Network Scheme to provide electronic connectivity to the mandis State Marketing Boards and Agri Marketing Directorates. Under the scheme, there are 3288 markets having internet connectivity (upto February 2017) across the country and reporting the prices and arrivals data to the Agmarknet portal.

(c) The Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). The scheme aims to create a national web based portal for online trading of agri-produce. With online bidding, transparency and competition in Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), farmers will get remunerative prices for their produce. So far, 361 markets from 10 States have been integrated with e-NAM. All these markets are equipped with internet connectivity which is integral for working of the portal. Financial assistance of ₹ 30 lakh per mandi is provided under e-NAM scheme for developing market infrastructure including computers, assaying labs etc.

Measures to reduce cost of cultivation for farmers

3373. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agrarian States of the country have benefitted from the National Project on Organic Farming, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether measures have been taken to reduce the cost of cultivation for farmers in case they want to switch to organic farming, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad and its Regional Centres coordinate all the activities for promotion of organic farming in the country through technical capacity building, transfer of technology, promotion and production of quality organic and biological inputs. NCOF organizes 30 days certificate course on organic farming for skill development in organic agriculture sector for youth. It also conducts 10 days Refresher course for analysts under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO); 5 Days Trainers Training and 2 Days training for field functionaries and extension staff of the State Government. NCOF has also been organizing Farmers' Training and Field Demonstration (FTFD) programmes on organic farming since 2015-16 in various villages adopted by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament under "Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana" (SAGY), through its Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). It has completed 300 no. of FTFD in 2015-16 and has targeted 297 no. in the year 2016-17.

(b) Cost of organic agriculture largely depends on on-farm generation of inputs. When on-farm organic inputs are used, cost of production per unit area is less by 13 % under organic agriculture than inorganic management. However, if organic inputs from outside the farm are purchased and utilized, the cost of production increases by about 15-20 % depending on the nature of inputs used. Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models are being developed under Network Project on Organic Farming of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) that promises to meet 70-80 % of organic inputs within the farm thus reducing the market input cost considerably.

Remunerative price for potato and tomato growers

†3374. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of potato and tomato has increased significantly during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has ensured that producers of potato and tomato not suffer losses due to rise in their production and that they get proper remunerative price, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The production of potato and tomato has shown a mixed trend. In case of potato, there was a decline in production by 10% and production of tomato had increased by 14% during 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15. The details of the production data during the last two years are as under;

		Production in '000 metric tonnes	
Sl. No.	Crop	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Potato	48009.19	43417.05
2.	Tomato	16384.98	18731.97

(b) The Government of India is operating a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities including potato and tomato, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support System. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. The condition is that there should be either at least a 10 percent increase in production or a 10 percent decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.