

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per the data available with the Government of India, the price trends of potato and tomato during the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 always showed declining trend during the months of November and December. The modal prices of both potato and tomato have been reported by the large above their production costs during the demonetization period.

(b) In order to protect the interest of farmers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural crops, however, potato crop do not meet the criteria for inclusion under MSP. Therefore, Government of India implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS) Scheme. The objective of the intervention is to protect the farmers from making distress sale in the event of 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 would be either at least a 10% increase in production or a 10% decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year. The Scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT Government which is ready to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Organic farming under PKVY

166. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was able to mobilize 50 acres of land with fifty or more farmers to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) across the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) Scheme, assistance is provided to the farmers through respective State Agriculture Department for cluster formation. It includes different components such as:

- (i) Mobilization of farmers: training of farmers and exposure visit by farmers.
- (ii) Quality control: soil sample analysis, process documentation, inspection of fields of cluster members, residue analysis, certification charges and administrative expenses for certification.

- (iii) Conversion practices: transition from current practices to organic farming, which includes procurement of organic inputs, organic seeds and traditional organic input production units and biological nitrogen harvest planting etc.
- (iv) Integrated manure management: procurement of Liquid Bio fertilizer consortia/ Bio pesticides, Neem cake, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure and Vermi compost.
- (v) Custom hiring centre charges: to hire agricultural implements.
- (vi) Labelling and Packaging assistance and Transport assistance.
- (vii) Marketing through organic fairs.

Under PKVY Scheme, assistance is provided ₹ 50,000 per hectare per farmer in cluster during the 3 years to develop 10,000 organic clusters of 50 acre (20 hectare) land so as to cover certified organic area by 2 lakh hectare during the 3 years period. Government has approved Annual Action Plan of 29 States and 1 Union Territory. 7186 clusters have been formed during 2015-16, out of which Tamil Nadu has developed 112 clusters.

MSP for foodgrains

167. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan had recommended for fixing of Minimum Support Price of foodgrains at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of productions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the MSP for foodgrains announced by Government for 2016-17 met this recommendation, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.

Government has fixed MSP for 2016-17 based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments.

While recommending price policy, the CACP considers, *inter alia*, a number of important factors which include cost of production, trends in market prices, demand