

Sl. No.	District	No. of Farmers	Allocated Amount
3.	Jalaun	195913	22.17
	TOTAL (Jhansi Division)	514991	66.88
1.	Hamirpur	101627	13.74
2.	Mahoba	140035	13.86
3.	Banda	176931	13.80
4.	Chitrakoot	85730	13.43
	TOTAL (Banda Division)	504323	54.83
	GRAND TOTAL	1019314	121.71

Non-coverage of vegetables under MSP mechanism

2248. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 14 of the 51 major crops are covered under the MSP price mechanism of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-coverage of vegetables under the MSP mechanism; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for those agricultural commodities which are widely grown, have large area under cultivation, are items of mass consumption with fairly long shelf life and are necessary for maintaining food security. Government announces MSP for 22 major crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard Seed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane. Vegetables are not covered under MSP Scheme as they do not meet the above mentioned criteria.

Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities 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. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned

State/UT Government, which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Demand for waiving-off farm loans in Tamil Nadu

2249. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the farmers and Government of Tamil Nadu for waiving off the farm loans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/to be taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Representations were received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu. There is no scheme for waiver of loans of farmers under consideration of the Union Government.

However, to reduce the debt burden of the farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:—

- With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter alia*, include, restructuring/rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.
- Post demonetisation the Government has taken the following relief measures for the farmers in the cooperative sector:—
 - (i) An additional grace period of 60 days for prompt repayment incentive @ 3% was provided to such farmers whose crop loans dues fell due