

1	2	3	4
Sunflower	3950*	4100*	150(3.8)
Soyabean	2775*	3050^	275(9.9)
Sesamum	5000^	5300*	300(6.0)
Nigerseed	3825*	4050*	225(5.9)
Cotton (Medium Staple)	3860	4020	160(4.1)
Cotton (Long Staple)	4160	4320	160(3.8)

# Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

#### Marketing of maize, millet, ragi and similar crops

671. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers cultivating maize, millet, ragi and other similar crops are facing severe problems due to non-availability of buyers in the market;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure marketing of these grains at remunerative price; and

(c) whether Government will come out with schemes to increase the awareness in the general public about the benefits of such produces in order to increase their market share for the benefit of the farmers cultivating them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) State Governments have not reported any problem faced by farmers cultivating millet, ragi and similar crops due to non-availability of buyers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Coarse Cereals is being implemented in 265 districts of 28 States for increasing production and productivity of coarse cereals, which include millets, maize, sorghum, ragi, pearl millet and small millets.

Three National Centres of Excellence have been established at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hissar for pearl millet, at Indian

Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad for sorghum and at University of Agriculture Sciences, Bengaluru for small millets. There is provision for setting up of processing units through progressive farmers, entrepreneurs/NGOs, creation of awareness and training of selected cluster of farmers.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by Government for major agricultural commodities ensures procurement through public and cooperative agencies.

The Centrally sponsored scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)' recently strengthened in a Mission Mode promotes decentralized farmer-driven and farmer-accountable extension system. Extension activities include Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

#### **Agitation by farmers**

†672. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States where agitating farmers were fired at in the last six months, including the incident in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the details of demands of the farmers;
- (c) the number of farmers who committed suicides in the country in the last one year and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would collect the data regarding the number of farmers who took loan from moneylenders at high rate of interest and the steps being taken by Government to emancipate them from the clutches of moneylenders; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The incident of firing on farmers had taken place in Madhya Pradesh. The main demands of the farmers are:—

- (i) waiver of farm loans,
- (ii) fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce as per Swaminathan Committee report,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.