

include their specific schemes and interventions and incorporates drought forecasting, monitoring, response and mitigation as a continuum of activities. The Manual provides relevant guidelines so that the States benefit from them and pursue the most efficient and practical course of action. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also amended Guidelines on Constitution and Administration of the SDRF and NDRF on 03.04.2017, making it mandatory for State Governments to implement the 'Manual for Drought Management, 2016', in determination/declaration of drought.

Marketing reforms

679. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government, in consultation with the NITI Aayog, has identified a set of marketing reforms to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produces by reducing intervention of middlemen and aimed at doubling the farmers' income;

(b) if so, the details of the marketing reforms; and

(c) the time-frame for putting them in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A set of reforms, in agri-marketing sector were identified in consultation with NITI Aayog to make agricultural markets more competitive and efficient and also to ensure remunerative price to farmers for their produce with the larger aim to double their income. Further, Ministry has drafted a model "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017", in consultation with States and NITI Aayog which encompasses the entire basket of agricultural marketing reforms, including setting of private markets, direct marketing, de-regulation of fruits and vegetables, e-trading, single point levy of market fee, issue of unified single trading licence in the State, declaring warehouses/silos/ cold storage as market sub-yards, Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) and provision for inter-State trade.

This model APLM Act, 2017 was released on 24th April, 2017 to the States for adoption at the earliest.