

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. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government.

Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. MSP is recommended by CACP based on objective criteria, considering variety of relevant factors.

(b) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for twenty two (22) major crops viz. Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustardseed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). In addition, MSP for Toria and De-Husked coconut is fixed by the Department on the basis of MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustardseed and Copra respectively.

The Government offers to procure the crops at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(c) Low productivity of crops and lower income realization in agriculture are the major problems faced by farmers in the country. Government has taken several initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity and to enhance income of farmers which, *inter alia*, include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card etc.

In addition, Government is also implementing e-National Agriculture Market and promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

New Drug Policy

692. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce a new Drug Policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when this new Drug Policy would come into effect, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is contemplating to introduce a new National Pharmaceutical Policy which would not restrict itself to pricing aspect only.

(b) No time limit can be indicated at this stage.

Import of urea

693. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of urea imported by the country during the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of amount set aside for estimated urea import in 2017-18;
- (c) whether Government has decided to make available urea bags of 45 Kg. instead of 50 Kg., if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this move will help to cut urea consumption and save large amount of money on subsidy annually, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to revive closed urea manufacturing plants to ramp up production and to export the same to our neighboring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The quantum of urea imported by the country for direct agriculture use during the last three years is as below:—

(Qty in Lakh MT)

Year	From OMIFCO	Through STE	Total
2014-15	14.63	72.86	87.49
2015-16	20.78	63.96	84.74
2016-17	20.02	34.79	54.81

(b) The quantum of amount set aside for estimated urea import in 2017-18 is ₹ 14000 crore.