

Instant payment to farmers for produce procured

2118. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor farmers have still not come out from the clutches of moneylenders, traders and middlemen as they continue to sell their produce at a price below the MSP because Government agencies make payment to the farmers against the produce procured after a considerable time;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan under consideration of Government to make payment to the farmers instantly against the produce procured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Under the procurement mechanism, Government agencies procure the produce of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly from farmers as and when prices fall below the MSP and proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories. The payments to the farmers are made strictly through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque by the procuring agencies within three days of purchase of their produce. However, if farmers gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.

Strengthening of animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries etc.

†2119. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to strengthen the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agriculture education and research and expansion system;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) is implementing an umbrella scheme, White Revolution: Rasthtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana to conserve and develop indigenous

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.