

Procurement of surplus farm produces

1998. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has developed proper mechanism to ensure that the farmers essentially get enhanced MSP on their surplus farm produce;
- (b) the action Government proposes to take against wholesale merchants who purchase Kharif produce at cost lower than enhanced MSP; and
- (c) whether Government would procure the surplus farm produce directly from the farmers, against MSP fixed, in case the wholesale merchants do not pay MSP to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) There exists a transparent and Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever wheat and paddy are offered by farmers within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India (GoI), is purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government Agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI), for Central Pool.

The different types of coarsegrains are procured by State Governments itself in consultation with FCI to the extent that the concerned State Government may utilise the same for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) as well as Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

Price Support Scheme (PSS) is implemented for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government. This scheme is implemented at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements including gunny bags, provide working capital for State agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations etc. as required under the Scheme guidelines. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices with low cost of intermediation.

However, if any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell his produce in Open market.

The various steps like wide publicity of procurement operations, opening of adequate procurement centre by State Government Agencies/FCI and making timely payment to farmers through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque are taken to ensure remunerative price to farmers.

Regulating e-commerce market

1999. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in the process of framing rules or legislation for regulating e-commerce market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is consulting all the necessary and important players of the industry to be the part of the consultation process in framing the rules/legislation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 has been introduced in Lok Sabha by this Ministry on 5th January, 2018 which seeks to provide for an executive agency to be called the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which will, *inter alia*, deal with unfair trade practices. There are also provisions in the Bill to frame rules for preventing unfair trade practices in e-commerce and to protect the interest and rights of the consumers. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce has also initiated and exercise and established a Think Tank on "Framework for National Policy on e-Commerce". A Task Force under it has deliberated on the challenges confronting India in the arena of the digital economy and electronic commerce (e-commerce).

Procurement of paddy in Maharashtra

2000. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the paddy procured on Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the State Government of Maharashtra during the last four years and the current year, year-wise;