

Governments. MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

Government has announced its historic decision on 04.07.2018 to fix MSP at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for kharif crops 2018-19 which redeems the promise made in the Union Budget for 2018-19. The details are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ. 266 part (c) and (d)]

As per the existing arrangements, procurement is made of the crops for which MSPs are announced through Central and State agencies. In so far as cereals/nutri cereals are concerned, they are procured through FCI and decentralized procurement system mainly for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS), for welfare schemes and buffer stocking for food security. Government implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at MSP declared by the Government. This scheme is implemented at the request of the state government concerned which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and other state duties. 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 the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable price with low cost of intermediation.

The Budget for 2018-19 also announced that NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and State Governments, will put in place a fool-proof mechanism so that farmers may get adequate price for their produce.

(d) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended that the MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production. However, when the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 was finalized, this recommendation of providing 50 per cent returns over cost of production was not included. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in his Report on NCF had discussed different dimensions of fixing MSPs, but while finalizing National Policy on Farmers, the then Government had accepted the current established methods.

Insurance cover for damage of crops by animals

2729. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated average income of farmers across the country, during the current year and past three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to determine the quantity of agriculture crops destroyed by animal activities on a regular basis, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government plans to provide assistance to various farmers whose crops are destroyed/damaged by animals by providing insurance coverage or any other facility, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The latest available estimates of average income per agricultural household in the country are based on the "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households" conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during its 70th round (January 2013 - December 2013). As per the survey results, the average monthly income per agricultural household from all sources is estimated to be ₹ 6,426/.

Government has not conducted any such Survey since 2013. However, the National Statistical Commission (NSC) has decided to conduct the next Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the NSS 77th round (January 2019- December 2019) with reference to the agricultural year July 2018-June 2019.

(b) and (c) Under SAS 2013, among other things, the reasons for the crop loss with respect to each major crop were ascertained. As per the Survey results, during the first half of the agricultural year (July 2012-Dec. 2012), inadequate rainfall/ draught was the most reported reason for crop loss for all the selected crops, except coconut and urad, wherein 'disease/insect/animal' was reported as the major reason for crop loss.

During the period (Jan. 2013-June 2013), 'disease/insect/animal' was the most reported reason for crop loss for most of the crops. For crops like gram, potato, rapeseed/mustard, other natural calamities was one of the major reasons reported by households.

(d) and (e) Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a comprehensive risk insurance package is provided to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks, viz., natural fire and lightning, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane,

tornado, flood, inundation and landslide, drought, dry spells, pests/diseases, etc. The losses to crops due to wild animals are preventable in nature and therefore, not covered. Further, due to the involvement of issue of moral hazard at the time of assessing the loss/risk, insurance companies are at present not providing cover for this risk.

However, there are systems in place, both at the Centre and State level, for compensation for losses to farmers in the country due to destruction of crops by wild animals. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to State/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. It includes compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property. State Governments also provide relief from their own funds for damage to crops by wild animals.

Cold storages in Maharashtra

2730. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government establishes or promotes establishment of cold storages for the benefit of small and marginal farmers and also to help the food processing sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria laid down for establishing such cold storages; and
- (c) the number of such cold storages established, so far, along with those likely to be established in the near future in the State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government does not establish cold storage on its own. However, Government is providing financial assistance and fiscal incentive for creation of cold storages in States.

Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme, credit-linked back ended subsidy at the rate of 35% of the capital cost of the project in general