

inter-alia, provide assistance to the farmers without any discrimination, in the form of agriculture input subsidy for damaged crop areas, where crop loss is 33% and above, restricted to sown areas, subject to a ceiling of 2 hectare per farmer.

MSP for Rabi crops

4505. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Government is claiming that it has given 1.5 times the cost of production as MSP from current Rabi season;

(b) whether increase in MSP, in terms of percentage for Rabi crops for 2017-18 over the MSP of 2016-17, is lesser than increase in 2016-17 over the MSP of 2015-16; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for Rabi crops of 2017-18 season on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) provide adequate return over weighted average cost of production. Out of the 6 mandated Rabi crops for which MSPs are fixed, 5 Rabi crops *viz.* wheat, barley, gram, masur and rapeseed/mustard have returns in excess of 50 per cent over cost of production. The details are as under:

	(₹ per quintal)					
	Wheat	Barley	Gram	Masur	Mustard	Safflower
Cost of production*	817	845	2461	2366	2123	3125
MSP	1735	1410	4400	4250	4000	4100
Return over cost of production*(%)	112.4	66.9	78.8	79.6	88.4	31.2

* Weighted averages of all paid out cost, depreciation of farm machinery and building, imputed value of wages of family labour and imputed value of costs in kind.

(b) and (c) The decision to increase MSPs is based on the recommendations of CACP. While recommending MSPs, CACP takes into account several factors like cost

of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop prices parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land and water.

Government has increased the MSPs of mandated Rabi crops of 2016-17 and 2017-18 season over their previous year's MSPs. In most cases, the increase in MSPs is much higher than the increase in costs of production as is evident from the higher returns over costs. Per cent increase in MSPs and return over costs for Rabi crops for 2016-17 and 2017-18 is given below:

Rabi crops	2016-17		2017-18	
	% Increase in MSP over 2015-16	% Return over costs*	% Increase in MSP over 2016-17	% Return over costs*
Wheat	6.6	103.89	6.8	112.4
Barley	8.2	62.38	6.4	66.9
Gram	14.3	78.49	10	78.8
Masur (Lentil)	16.2	81.69	7.6	79.6
Rapeseed/Mustard	10.4	97.76	8.1	88.4
Safflower	12.1	21.35	10.8	31.2

*Weighted averages of all paid out cost, depreciation of farm machinery and building, imputed value of wages of family labour and imputed value of costs in kind.

Remunerative price for farmers's produces

4506. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small farmers suffer from their reliance on middlemen to sell their produces; and

(b) if so, the steps which have been devised during the last three years to ensure that farmers are not compelled to sell their produces at a rate less than their cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) To protect the farmers,