

Assured MSP for farm produces

804. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked all State Governments to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers for farm produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of States which have adhered to Central Government directive and the action proposed against those States which have not followed the same; and

(c) whether Government is considering to extend some financial assistance to the States in order to safeguard the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) There is already a mechanism to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers. Under which, as per prescribed guidelines, procurement is made by Government agencies at MSP in consultation with the concerned State Government when market price of notified farm produces of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) goes below MSP. Payment to the farmers is made primarily through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque by the procuring agencies. However, if farmers gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.

Remunerative price for agricultural produces

805. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural growth has shrunk to 2.1 per cent during the current year, as per the recent projection, in spite of favourable monsoon conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether non-provision of remunerative price for agricultural produces and non-implementation of recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, along with demonetisation are main reasons behind agrarian crisis and large scale suicides by farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) As