

Country	Employment in Agriculture in 2014 (% of Total Employment)
Australia	2.8
France	2.8
Germany	1.4
New Zealand	6.2
United Kingdom	1.3
United States of America	1.5

Source: World Bank.

(d) Government receives representations from time to time on various issues concerning agricultural sector. In order to serve the interest of farmers and to redress their grievances, various schemes/programmes are being implemented by the Union and State Governments and organizations under them. The performance of these schemes/programmes is also being regularly monitored by the respective Governments/Organizations.

MSP for fruits and vegetables

828. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to fix Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide remunerative prices to fruit and vegetable growing farmers in order to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 major agricultural crops viz. Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after obtaining the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. In addition, MSP for Toria and De-Husked coconut is also fixed on the basis of MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustard and Copra respectively.

Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables which are not covered under the MSP on the request of State/UT Governments. The 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. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

In addition, Government under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme is supporting farmers producer organization and post production activities including pack houses, cold storages, marketing infrastructure to ensure remunerative prices for farmers.

Benefits of agricultural schemes to farmers

†829. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of schemes being implemented by Government to reduce the agriculture cost along with the details thereof;

(b) the amount of budget allocated for the said schemes and the amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) the number of farmers benefited from the said schemes along with the details thereof;

(d) the reduction in cost of agriculture per hectare by implementation of the schemes and the amount of increase in the income of farmers, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) whether Government proposes to reduce the rate of GST on necessary resources for the agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Agriculture is a State subject. Government of India facilitates the State Governments through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to increase production, implementation of new technologies to reduce cost of cultivation like improved variety of seeds, drip irrigation, soil testing and using fertilizers most suited for crops, scientific crops production technologies, seed minikit etc., Details showing the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.